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HALIFAX • WEEKEND, MAY 14-16, 2011

Celebrity pg 38

**Twilight
of their
love?**



Picnicface movie inching closer to reality

COMEDY Halifax comedy troupe Picnicface has taken a big step towards having its movie Roller Town become a reality.

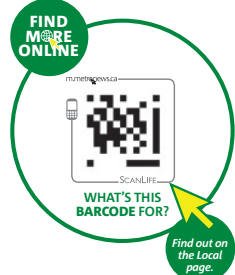
It was revealed Thursday that D Films won the Canadian distribution rights to the project, which currently exists only as an online trailer.

"There's no guarantee yet," Picnicface member Scott Vrooman said. "Once you have a distributor on-board, it certainly gives you a pretty good hand to get money to do the movie."

Picnicface is in talks with Telefilm Canada to fund the project.

"I don't think it's going to be a big-budget feature, but I don't think we need a lot of money either," Vrooman said. "We're pretty pumped."

PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX



Movies pg 22



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Crew members of HMCS Montreal watch as HMCS Athabaskan heads out of Halifax harbour on its way to Haiti to assist in the earthquake relief effort in this file photo from January. In a cost-cutting move, the navy is mothballing half of its Kingston-class coastal patrol vessels and limiting the duties of six other vessels, including the Montreal and Athabaskan.

Six ships mothballed

Navy's coastal patrol fleet halved due to budget, staffing concerns

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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The navy is docking half of its Kingston-class patrol vessels and reducing the capabilities of the other six ships because of a budget shortfall and a lack of sailors.

Three Kingston-class ships based in Halifax will be put in long-term storage, but there's no word yet on which ones. Another three will be mothballed in Esquimalt, B.C. Several of the navy's workhorses, the Halifax-class frigates, will be scaled back according to a letter written by Vice-Admiral Dean McFadden and leaked to Canwest News Service.

A navy spokesperson did not respond to requests

'An embarrassment'

• Peter Stoffer, MP for Sackville-Eastern Shore is calling the downsizing "an embarrassment."

"It's a kick in the teeth to the men and women in our navy," Stoffer said in an interview from Ottawa Thursday.

from Metro for an interview Thursday.

Frigates HMCS St. John's and HMCS Montreal, both based in Halifax, will be limited on their domestic and continental missions.

Combat systems on HMCS Toronto and the destroyer HMCS Athabaskan will be "minimally supported" for sensors and communications only. Two frigates based in Esquimalt will also be scaled back.

"They're not only going to affect the economy of our city as well as Esquimalt, but our security as well."

"We'll have limited capability to participate in national and international operations."

Halving the Kingston fleet is making a poor situation even worse, according to a Halifax military analyst.

"I think the navy was having problems anyway in finding crews to staff the Kingston-class coastal patrol vessels, which were hideous choices anyway," said Dan Middlemiss, a Dalhousie University political science professor.

"Any fishing vessel

could outrun them, but at least they could provide some surveillance and they were good for training."

He is one of many who believe the Afghanistan mission is draining funds from other resources. And after the Afghanistan mission winds down next year, Middlemiss expects the army will be "sitting down" for a while and letting the navy fill in.

"Even for the high-end missions, they won't be as capable so it's a gamble."

Reducing the capability of six of the 12 Halifax-class frigates, considered the primary weapon systems in the navy, will make it even more difficult. The frigates are also scheduled for refits, which will take them out of action for months at a time.

Cruise ship crewman gets 4 months for child porn

SENTENCED A cruise ship crewman has been sentenced in Halifax to four months in jail after pleading guilty to crimes including possession of child pornography.

The Canada Border Services Agency says Jay Ar Ramos Trilles, 24, also admitted in Halifax provincial court Thursday to smuggling prohibited goods.

The agency, describing the man only as a non-resident, says he will be sent out of Canada after completing his sentence.

Officers arrested Trilles Tuesday after finding images on a laptop computer depicting child porn.

The agency says he will also be added to the National Sex Offender Registry in Canada and ordered to provide a DNA sample.

The Halifax Regional Police and RCMP were also involved in the investigation.

"I commend the outstanding work of the CBSA officers whose efforts led to this conviction," Vic Toews, Canada's minister of Public Safety, said in a release about the incident issued Thursday afternoon. "Our government is committed to getting this repulsive material off our streets and preventing the exploitation of children in Canada and around the world."

An attempt to contact a media spokeswoman with the CBSA for more details about the incident was unsuccessful.

THE CANADIAN PRESS
WITH FILES FROM METRO HALIFAX

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3

Local



Regis and Kelly on way to P.E.I.?

One of the top-rated syndicated morning shows in the U.S. could be coming to Prince Edward Island, but not without a hefty price tag, according to an opposition MLA. Jim Bagnall said he's been told the P.E.I. government will pay more than \$750,000 to have Live! With Regis And Kelly do a show from Prince Edward Island. Their appearance could be part of the Cavendish Beach Music Festival, which runs July 7-11, according to sources.

METRO HALIFAX

Police, horse to trim locks for charity

LEUKEMIA Twenty Halifax police officers — and one police horse — will be getting haircuts for a good cause Saturday afternoon.

Titled Hair for Hero's, the officers and Sarge the police horse are getting shaved for the Daniel McLellan Memorial Fund, which assists families in Atlantic Canada with children suffering from leukemia. The fund is named after Daniel McLellan, who passed away in 2004 after a four-month battle with cancer. The event, now in its sixth year, will take place in the centre court at Halifax Shopping Centre. Sarge's haircut is scheduled for 2 p.m. The officers follow at 2:30 p.m.

METRO HALIFAX

No drilling on Georges Bank: Dexter

Province to extend moratorium on area from 2012 to 2015

PAUL MCLEOD
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Oil and gas drilling is banned on Georges Bank for another three years, but the debate is far from over.

Premier Darrell Dexter announced Thursday his government is extending the moratorium in the waters south of Nova Scotia from 2012 to 2015.

The decision takes place against the backdrop of a catastrophic oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, with both fishermen and opposition parties urging the government to block development of the wildlife-rich area.

But the extension is much shorter than last time, when the government in 1999 decided to extend the ban until 2012. Dexter said that's because they're still waiting on more scientific information to come back.



Premier Darrell Dexter speaks with reporters Thursday at One Government Place. Dexter announced that the provincial and federal governments are extending the moratorium on oil and gas exploration on Georges Bank until 2015.

tion to come back.

Two reports are underway but Dexter said more study is needed before a final decision is made.

"Some are completed, some are not. What I'm saying is what we have seen so far points out the need for additional scientific inquiry," said Dexter.

Another factor is that part of the area falls under American jurisdiction. The current American moratorium runs until 2017. Dexter said Nova Scotia won't necessarily pursue drilling if the Americans do.

He also said Thursday's decision was not due to the Gulf of Mexico BP spill.

"The event there had little effect on this decision at all. It's something that raised awareness but we were on a track to make this decision," he said.

Mark Butler of the Ecology Action Centre was happy to see the moratorium extended but said ideally it should be permanent.

"At some point we have to get out of this, end the cycle of studies and public consultations every five years or every 10 years," said Butler.

"In the end yes, the science is important, yes, changes in the industry and the technology are important, but the value of Georges Bank doesn't change, both its ecosystem and to the fishery."

News in brief

CLARIFICATION In the story Survey says: Danger from the May 12 edition of Metro Halifax, the man who identified himself as Kenny Brown gave a false name and occupation. The man is a longtime resident, but does not work at Charlie's.

METRO HALIFAX

LOCATED A person of interest in the death of a 45-year-old Moncton woman has been located. New Brunswick RCMP said Stephen Patrick Maguire reported to a detachment in Hampton, N.B., early Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Board mum on possible firing of principal

EDUCATION Halifax Regional School Board spokesman Doug Hadley isn't confirming or denying a release issued Thursday saying board staff is recommending the firing of a local junior high school principal.

The Council of African Canadian Education and the Black Educators Association of Nova Scotia issued the joint news release about a press conference they're holding Friday at 1 p.m. regarding principal

Ken Fells, who has been on administrative leave since March 3 after an incident at Graham Creighton Junior High School in Cherry Brook.

The release says African Nova Scotia educators and community groups are "outraged" at the recommendation by board staff to terminate Fells, something Hadley wouldn't comment on.

Hadley also wouldn't disclose details behind the incident, but the release issued said it involved Fells, a student and an altercation between them. The release alleged the student "physically confronted" the principal, which led to a confrontation.

The RCMP were called to the school for what has been reported as a possible assault.

"It's a personnel matter and I can't confirm or deny what the recommendation would be going forward to

the board," Hadley said.

"We've acknowledged there was an incident on the day in question but we have to remain neutral in terms of presenting that information to the board so they can make an informed decision without having been swayed one way or the other."

Hadley added it would be the elected board voting and deciding the fate of Fells.

PHILIP CROUCHER/
METRO HALIFAX

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POUR LA VIE



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celebrate remember fight back

The majority of Haligonians said they would be willing to pay higher taxes for a more environmentally friendly city. Fifty-three per cent of respondents in the CityThink poll said they were either somewhat or very willing, while 46 per cent said they were unwilling. **METRO HALIFAX**

Bristol talks to the people in your neighborhood

Middle ground on heritage preservation

Almost half of poll respondents feel balance between past, future development is right

ALEX BOUTILIER
for Metro Halifax

It's an old and contentious debate for HRM politicians, developers and civic-minded Haligonians.

But despite strong opinions held on either side, nearly half of HRM residents feel a proper balance has been struck between heritage preservation and development.

Thirty per cent of respondents in the CityThink survey feel too much emphasis is placed on heritage preservation in HRM. Another 22 per cent feel too little attention is being paid to preserving the centuries-old buildings in the city.

But the poll, conducted by Bristol Omnifacts Research for Metro Halifax and the Greater Halifax Partnership, found 44 per cent feel the balance between the two is about right.

Craig Wight, senior vice-president of research at Bristol Omnifacts, said the relatively even split makes it difficult to make clear statements about the issue. But Wight said it also suggests a middle-of-the-road approach.

"It argues for a middle ground ... and also suggests that whatever I decide to do as a council, I'm going to have a lot of op-



Fewer than half of the respondents to the new CityThink poll feel HRM development policies have struck the right balance between heritage preservation and development.

position," said Wight.

"And I think we've probably seen that over a number of years, where development got a group out saying, 'No, I don't want this, we've got to protect heritage,' and another group saying, 'No, we've protected enough her-

itage, we need to develop."

The issue of heritage preservation has come to the fore in the debates over the proposed trade centre building in downtown Halifax. Proponents for the development say it will be a boon for the

downtown core, stimulating a rejuvenation of the area and adding increased tax revenues to city coffers.

But a vocal group of detractors argue the complex will block the sight lines from Citadel Hill, taking away from the en-

joyment of residents and tourists alike.

Phil Pacey, Halifax representative for the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, said he thinks the numbers reflect that council is doing a reasonably good job at balancing the interests of both sides.

CityThink lineup

- Friday: Development
- Monday: Transit
- Tuesday: Municipal politics

"I think we've probably seen that over a number of years, where development got a group out saying, 'No, I don't want this, we've got to protect heritage,' and another group saying, 'No, we've protected enough heritage, we need to develop.'"

Craig Wight,
Bristol Omnifacts

"To a large extent, they are," he said. "There are a lot of things they're doing very well."

CityThink sampled 500 residents of HRM last month, and the survey carries a margin of error of 4.4 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

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Majority shows support for outdoor sports stadium

ALEX BOUTILIER
for Metro Halifax

ARENA Most Haligonians think the city could use a large outdoor sports stadium.

The CityThink 2010 survey found 60 per cent of HRM residents mostly or completely agree the city needs a new, larger outdoor sports stadium. Another 36 per cent mostly or completely disagree.

"It's hard to read into exactly what people are thinking, but I think they view it as if this could get done, we'd love it," said Fred Morley, executive vice-president of the Greater Halifax Partnership.

"If it can be done in a reasonably cost-efficient way ... it is something people have flagged."

Craig Wight, senior vice-president at Bristol Omnifacts Research, which con-

"It's hard to read into exactly what people are thinking, but I think they view it as if this (sports stadium) could get done, we'd love it. If it can be done in a reasonably cost-efficient way ... it is something people have flagged."

Fred Morley, Greater Halifax Partnership

ducted the survey, said he views the response as a starting point for more debate on the subject.

"I think it shows (that) yes, there's interest. (But) if it was my money, I would not be going to develop (a

stadium) just based on that," Wight said. "I would take that as, OK, here's a starting point."

"Yes, there seems to be interest, (but) how much attendance am I going to get, are they really willing to pay for it themselves — because it is kind of a no-money obligation type of question."

Morley said with the municipality facing a hefty deficit this year, it will take a big event — as well as fed-

eral and provincial involvement — to make a stadium a reality. He pointed to the new arena in Clayton Park under construction for the 2011 Canada Games as an example.

"This isn't a blank cheque to go out and borrow and spend money all on our own," said Morley. "What it is is (that) we've reached the stage where this is something we should consider as a community."

Results from the CityThink survey on the topic of HRM development

The CityThink survey sampled 500 residents in HRM last month and carries a margin of error of 4.4 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

1 Do you think HRM's development policies ...

- Favour development — 42%
- Inhibit development —

2 Do you think HRM's development policies ...

- Place too much emphasis on heritage preservation — 30%

- Appropriately balance the interests of heritage preservation and development — 44%
- Place insufficient emphasis on heritage preservation — 22%

3 Thinking back over the past 12 months, how would you describe HRM's growth? Would

you say HRM has grown a lot, some, a little or not at all?

- A lot — 25%
- Some — 40%
- A little — 24%
- Not at all — 9%
- Don't know — 2%

4 How willing would you be to pay higher municipal taxes in order

to make HRM more environmentally friendly? Would you be very willing, somewhat willing, somewhat unwilling or very unwilling?

- Very willing — 8%
- Somewhat willing — 45%
- Somewhat unwilling — 21%
- Very unwilling — 25%
- Don't know — 1%

5 HRM needs a new, large outdoor sports stadium.

- Completely agree — 28%
- Mostly agree — 32%
- Neutral — 2%
- Mostly disagree — 24%
- Completely disagree — 12%
- Don't know — 2%

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One of the largest projects in the history of Amherst cleared the final hurdle Wednesday with the awarding of a \$12-million tender to construct the town's new sewage treatment facility on the marsh. The bid of \$12,026,710 from Dartmouth's Brycon Construction Ltd. was selected. **AMHERST DAILY NEWS**

McNeil faces his leadership review

Liberal chief confident he'll get numbers he needs at party's annual meeting

Et tu, Brute?
Liberal
leaders have
cut it close

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

Blogging live

• Metro Halifax political reporter Paul McLeod will be blogging live from this weekend's Liberal AGM in Antigonish. You can follow his blog Behind the Back Bench at metronews.ca/blogs

Stephen McNeil is anxious to get his judgment day over with.

This Saturday the Liberal party will end many months of speculation when members vote on whether they support McNeil as their leader at their annual general meeting.

He wishes it hadn't taken this long.

"It should take place much quicker following a campaign. We're now 12 months almost into this government's mandate and we still have this issue of the review that's been hanging there," he said on Thursday.

In the future, McNeil would like to see the mandatory leadership reviews wrapped up within six months of an election.

If support is under 50 per cent, a new leadership race is automatically triggered. But anything above that it's up to McNeil to decide whether or not to stay on

as leader.

He's refused to declare what number he considers a proper mandate so people have been left to guess. Is 70 per cent support good enough? 60 per cent?

Also, considering the party's history of kneecapping its leaders and the anonymous smear campaign being waged against McNeil behind the scenes, why would anyone even want to be leader of the Liberal party?

When McNeil hears this he chuckles.

"It's not just the Liberal party. More recently Dr. (John) Hamm, for example, went through this as leader of the Conservative party prior to forming government," he said, noting he



Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil speaks with reporters at the Liberal caucus office on Thursday. The Liberals are holding their annual general meeting this weekend in Antigonish.

spoke with Hamm over the phone recently.

McNeil's been travelling around the province pushing hard for the chance to stay on as leader. And while

he still won't lay out a number, he's confident he'll be around for a while longer.

"I fully believe, from the support I have received

from the party membership, that I will have a percentage that will not only make me happy but will make you happy and anyone else," he said.

POLITICS It's been a while, but past Liberal leadership reviews have not been easy on their subjects.

In 1992 then Liberal leader Vince MacLean barely scraped by with 51 per cent support. He tried to hang on but was booted out by caucus shortly afterwards.

In 1995 the Liberal party was bitterly divided over a review of then-premier John Savage. Savage eventually "won" the review over vocal opposition, but the numbers were never released publicly.

Fifteen years later, Liberal party president Derek Wells said on Thursday he doesn't know what Savage's numbers were and he isn't going to check.

Even Savage's son, Liberal MP Mike Savage, said he wasn't sure what the result was. "I think it was pretty close to 100 per cent," Savage said Thursday before noting that yes, he was being somewhat facetious.

PAUL MCLEOD/METROHALIFAX

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The next phase of the project is underway and requires the closure of South Street from the intersection of South Park and South Streets to the intersection of Queen and South Streets. There is no through traffic.

Access will be maintained for Local Traffic only on South Street between Queen and South Park Streets.

Traffic heading east on South Street will be required to turn right or left onto South Park Street at the South Street intersection. There will be no left (eastbound) turns onto South Street for traffic traveling north (inbound) on South Park Street. Sidewalk access will be maintained.

Generally the work involves paving, sidewalk/curb replacement, and landscape restoration. The duration of construction is approximately 7 days.

Please note, all shops and services adjacent to the work zone will remain open during the construction period.

Municipal service disruptions, if required, will be kept to a minimum duration and affected residents and businesses will be notified in advance. Experienced traffic control personnel will be on-site to ensure smooth traffic flow. On site personnel will also maintain communication with local residents and businesses to help minimize disruption.

The hours of work will be Monday to Friday 7:00am to 6:00pm, with weekends as required. We apologize for any inconvenience this necessary work may cause.

For more information please contact Steve Hogan at 240-1289, or James Campbell at 490-4604.

Threatening behaviour

A Newfoundland man is in custody for allegedly threatening a utility worker who told him his power would be cut. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

local 7

Magazine Hill **Crash aftermath**

Debris gets swept up from a three-vehicle collision on Magazine Hill near Burnside Park on Thursday. A 29-year-old woman was sent to hospital with minor injuries from the accident that happened around 11 a.m. as the vehicles were headed towards Lower Sackville. Police say several vehicles were stopped in traffic on the highway when a silver car was rear-ended by a red minivan. The silver car then hit a white pickup truck. The injured woman was driving the silver car.

Five face drug charges

Five teens are facing charges following a traffic stop by police on Wednesday night in Dartmouth.

Halifax Regional Police say they stopped a car at Farrell Street just before 10 p.m. and arrested five male

occupants after allegedly seeing crack cocaine.

Four 17-year-olds and one 16-year-old, all from Dartmouth, are facing charges of drug trafficking.

Two of the 17-year-olds are also being charged

with breaching conditions and appeared Thursday at Halifax youth court.

The other three youths have been released and will appear in court at a later date.

METRO HALIFAX

Nova Scotia Power and Halifax Regional Municipality invite you an open house.

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Ex-bank employee to be sentenced

A former Royal Bank employee accused of stealing about \$500,000 from a branch in Antigonish will be sentenced on July 28 after pleading guilty to making a false document. Sharon Louise Tonet, 45, entered the plea during a brief provincial court appearance his week. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

News in brief

INJURIES A 31-year-old woman was taken to hospital with undetermined injuries after she was pinned up against a parked vehicle by another vehicle. Police say the woman had been near the area of Dahlia and Pine streets in Dartmouth when it happened.

COLLISION A motorcycle driver was taken to hospital with what police believe are non-life-threatening injuries after the bike collided with a car on Pleasant near Everett streets in Dartmouth on Thursday around 4 p.m. **METRO HALIFAX**

Man faces careless driving rap in crash

CHARGED A man is facing charges of careless and prudent driving after a two-vehicle crash near Halifax West High School on Thursday afternoon.

Halifax Regional Police say a pickup truck was approaching the bridge to Soccer Nova Scotia on Thomas Raddall Avenue — which is only wide enough for one vehicle — at about 70 km/h and hit another

vehicle coming in the opposite direction.

Police say the pickup truck ended up flipping on its side and the drivers of both vehicles were taken to the QEII Health Sciences Centre where they were treated with what were believed to be minor injuries.

Charges are pending against the driver of the truck.

METRO HALIFAX

Province ramps up school safety drive

EDUCATION The province announced on Thursday it is expanding workplace safety programs in Nova Scotia schools.

The eight-hour in-class instruction was piloted to 330 Grade 9 students across the province during the 2009-10 academic year, and after consultation with teachers, it will now be introduced into all schools for 2010-11.

The program is developed by the Education and Labour and Workforce Development and the Workers' Compensation Board and will be added into the compulsory Healthy Living 9 course. According to Statistics Canada, the number of youth joining the workforce in Nova Scotia is increasing — up to 62,700 for those aged between 15 and 24. **METRO HALIFAX**



Members of the Feminist League for Agitation Propaganda (FLAP) spell out Prime Minister Stephen Harper's last name on Citadel Hill on Thursday as a ground crew walks past. The FLAP members used their bodies to spell out "Harper give funding back to women."

Ladies spell it out for Tories at Citadel

JENNIFER TAPLIN
jennifer.taplin@metronews.ca

Feminists stormed Citadel Hill yesterday to spell out words with their bodies.

And not just a couple words either, but six: "Harper give funding back to women."

"I think now 'Harper' is happening over there and we're going to do one or two words at a time," said

"We want to draw attention to the issue and make sure they're held to account."

Rebecca Rose, activist

Rebecca Rose with the Feminist League for Agitation Propaganda.

She said the federal gov-

ernment has been eroding funding to women's organizations and human rights groups for years.

"We want to draw attention to the issue and make sure they're held to account."

They didn't have much of an audience yesterday morning, just a couple workers who gave them some odd looks as they trimmed the grass on Citadel Hill.

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Was a five-year-old disabled boy bullied on a school bus? His father says yes. But the Prairie South School Division in Saskatchewan says it has "a number of facts that differ greatly from the account provided publicly." It says it can't say more for privacy reasons. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Canada



Boxer's charges dropped

Assault and mischief charges have been dropped against former Olympic boxing silver medallist Shawn O'Sullivan, 47, pictured showing injuries he says he received after being assaulted by police. O'Sullivan complained he was Tasered and arrested by police in Belleville, Ont., who countered he was drunk and combative. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Outlaw abortion, say 15,000

Students, priests, nuns join giant Parliament Hill rally

Thousands of pro-life campaigners flooded Parliament Hill Thursday, daring to hope that Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government will take further steps against abortion at home as well as abroad.

The throng included hundreds of students drawn from Ottawa's Roman Catholic high schools.

Many waved graphic signs with pictures of aborted fetuses.

Priests, ministers, nuns and monks were scattered through the crowd, which was estimated at about 15,000 people.

The theme of this year's March for Life was: Abortion is a crime against humanity.

But politics was also at the fore as the abortion debate arrived literally on Harper's doorstep.

He sparked an outcry when he said money earmarked for child and maternal health programs in the Third World won't

go to abortions.

That won praise from Marc Cardinal Ouellet, archbishop of Quebec and primate of Canada.

"We support this stance of the government not to finance abortion in countries of the Third World," he said.

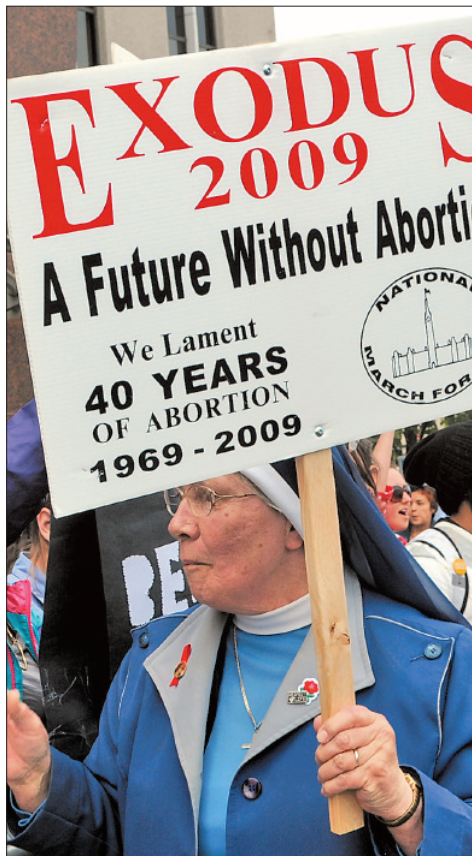
The Quebec prelate also told reporters: "Reopen the discussion in Canada about this judicial void. There is absolutely no protection for the unborn."

Angelina Steenstra of a group called Silent No More echoed Ouellet's statement:

"I am pleased to see the prime minister of Canada using the resources of Canada to promote women's health by offering real concrete things to women to bring about life and to support life and to encourage life."

Twenty-one members of Parliament, 18 of them Conservatives, addressed the crowd.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Thousands of anti-abortion activists march through Ottawa Thursday for the 13th annual March for Life.

Store boss charged in shoplifter's death

CRIME A corner-store owner has been charged with killing a shoplifter over what the victim's friend said was a can of luncheon meat.

Kwang Soo Kim, 62, has been charged with manslaughter in the death of Geraldine Beady, 29, after a confrontation in Winnipeg.

Beady was hit with a weapon, police said.

She made her way to a friend's house and died five days later in hospital.

"He was hoping he wasn't going to be charged."

Evan Roitenberg

"He was hoping he wasn't going to be charged," said Kim's lawyer, Evan Roitenberg.

Beady was from the Garden Hill First Nation, 600 kilometres north of Winnipeg and was in the city for medical treatment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Guergis asks: Was it all just a misunderstanding?

SCANDAL Helena Guergis says a misunderstanding must be the reason why Prime Minister Stephen Harper kicked her out of the Conservative caucus.

But she conceded Thursday her husband, Rahim Jaffer, might well have used her parliamentary email address for business purposes.

Guergis underlined private eye Derrick Snowdy's comments that he didn't

have any evidence of criminal behaviour on her part. "There obviously has been some misunderstanding," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Nervous?
Following spending scandals at home and abroad, some MPs keep expenses secret.

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A crab boat deckhand who appeared on the Deadliest Catch reality show has pleaded guilty to three Oregon bank robbery charges and sentenced to nine years in prison. The shackled Joshua Tell Warner, 23, apologized to tellers who attended the hearing Wednesday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

World



Teen sailor approaches finish line

After seven months at sea, an Australian teen on Thursday was just two days away from reaching the finish line in her bid to become the youngest person to sail solo, non-stop and unassisted around the world. Thousands are expected to line Sydney Harbour Saturday to offer a hero's welcome to Jessica Watson, 16, who has battled 12-metre waves, multiple knockdowns and critics who called her too immature and inexperienced for the treacherous journey. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Thai rebel leader shot

Violence breaks out after general takes bullet in head

A rogue army general working with anti-government protesters was shot in the head Thursday while talking to reporters in downtown Bangkok, triggering more clashes that left one demonstrator dead and worsening Thailand's political chaos.

Gunfire crackled well into the night after the government declared it will blockade 10,000 Red Shirt demonstrators who have occupied and paralyzed the centre of the capital for two months.

The streets turned into a virtual war zone following the shooting of Maj. Gen. Khattiya Sawasdiaphol. Protesters stopped police trucks and forced them to turn back; they hurled rocks at soldiers, who responded by firing live am-

Condition

• A hospital said Maj. Khattiya Sawasdiaphol was shot in the head and admitted to a hospital's intensive care unit.

munition, said Associated Press cameraman Raul Gallego. Killed in the shooting was Chartchai Bualao, 25, who was hit in the eye, according to the government's medical emergency centre. Soldiers resumed firing after an ambulance took his body away. At least seven other people were injured.

Khattiya was shot in the head while talking to a New York Times journalist near the Silom subway station on the edge of the occupation zone. The station entrance

is surrounded by tall office buildings, leading to suspicions a sniper fired the shot.

Times reporter Thomas Fuller, answering questions on the newspaper's website, said he was about a half-hour into the interview when he asked the general, "Do you think the military is going to launch a crack-down, and do you think they'll be able to penetrate the barricades here?"

"And there was a bang as he was answering it, and I think his last words that I heard were, 'The military cannot get in here.' And then immediately (he) just fell," Fuller said.

Moments later, others dragged Khattiya by the legs, his head sliding on the ground and leaving a trail of blood.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buffalo Obama drops in



Alexander Whitbeck, 7, left, and his father Scott stand along a street in Buffalo Thursday, where U.S. President Barack Obama stopped by. The president made a surprise stop to dine on the local delicacy at Duff's Famous Wings.

News in brief

INDIANA A 32-year-old man who prosecutors say videotaped himself and his girlfriend molesting children as young as two months was sentenced Thursday to 125

years in prison. Stephen Quick II was convicted in March of three counts of child molesting. He received the same sentence that his girlfriend, 26-year-old Saman-

tha Light, was given in December. During a search of the couple's home, investigators found a videotape with footage taken over five months of the couple engag-

ing in sexual acts with a two-month-old girl, a toddler boy, a six-year-old boy and the three-year-old girl, according to a probable cause affidavit. Light baby-sat some of the children.

ARRESTS U.S. Justice Department spokesman Dean Boyd says three people are in federal custody after search warrants were issued in multiple locations in the American

northeast in connection with the Times Square bomb investigation. Boyd says the three people are being held on alleged immigration violations. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



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Pope calls abortion, gay marriage 'insidious'

PORTUGAL Pope Benedict XVI has called abortion and same-sex marriage two of the most "insidious and dangerous" threats facing the world today.

Benedict made the comments Thursday to Catholic educators, social workers and others after celebrating Mass before an estimated 400,000 people in Fatima, one of the most important shrines in Christianity. He was interrupted by applause several times.

Benedict's visit to Fatima was the spiritual centerpiece of his four-day visit to Portugal. It was cast by Vatican officials as evidence that Benedict had turned a page in weathering the clerical sex abuse scandal that has dogged him for months.

Hundreds of thousands of people turned out for

an outdoor Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI Thursday at Fatima, the Catholic shrine that pilgrims visit in search of cures for their ailments.

The Mass marked the anniversary of the day 93 years ago when three local shepherd children reported having visions of the Virgin in this small farming town.

The May 13 celebrations are one of the Catholic church's major annual pilgrimages to a site where, many believe, the Virgin still works miracles.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



With Gordon Brown gone, a potentially bitter battle to replace him becomes a family affair

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Comment & Views

EDITOR: MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

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Comment

Grits can't get out of their own way

UrbanCompass



Can anyone explain why Nova Scotia Liberals — this province's natural governing party for much of the last century — seem so hell-bent on shooting themselves, their leaders and their chances of forming the next government flush

in the face?

Consider the last time there was a majority Liberal government in Nova Scotia. In 1993, John Savage swept a tired Tory government from office, winning 40 of the legislature's 52 seats.

By 1997, however, Savage had been ignominiously forced from office, not by voters but by unhappy members of his own party.

Why? Because Savage had actually begun to do what he had promised to do — clean up the province's corrupt patronage system — and eliminated some entitlements fel-

low Liberals felt entitled to.

Under Savage's successor, bland, visionless, veteran federal MP Russell MacLellan, the Liberals squandered their advantages, stumbling and bumbling their way to opposition.

In 2000, MacLellan quit. It took party members two years to find a replacement but when they chose one, it seemed they had gotten it right.

Danny Graham was bright, articulate and articulated a progressive liberal vision. But when Graham's wife became terminally ill less than two years later,

Graham had to step down to take care of his young family.

And the Liberals stepped right back in it, choosing the ineffectually incompetent Francis MacKenzie, whose freefall 2006 election campaign reduced the party to nine seats in the legislature, his own not among them.

So MacKenzie quit. If you're counting, that's four leaders, not to mention two interim leaders, in a little more than a decade, resulting in the election of 31 fewer MLAs.

The prize that current leader Stephen McNeil in-

herited with his second-ballot victory over fellow MLA Diana Whalen in April 2007 was hardly glorious.

How has he done?

His record is mixed. He ran a strong 2009 election campaign, but his efforts went largely unrewarded, the voters having already decided to try someone else. The Liberals gained just two seats, enough to make them the official opposition. As opposition leader, McNeil is still finding his feet.

But he has time. If he's allowed that luxury to develop and mature — like Darrell Dexter and John

Hamm before him — McNeil could very well lead his party to power someday.

This weekend in Antigonish, Liberal party members will vote on McNeil's continued leadership. He will probably survive the review, but — thanks to too many malcontent party mischief makers — emerge the worse for the fight.

Which means the Liberal party will continue to do what it seems to do so well. Do itself in.

Stephen Kimber, the Rogers Communications Chair in Journalism at the University of King's College, is the author of eight books.

Worth mentioning

U.S. backs Obama's spill response: Poll

The Gulf of Mexico oil spill hasn't stained U.S. President Barack Obama nor dimmed the public's desire for offshore energy drilling, according to a new Associated Press-GfK Poll.

While some conservative pundits have called this "Obama's Katrina," that's not how the public feels, the poll found.

BP PLC, which owned the well that has gushed more than 15 million litres and counting after an April 20 oil rig explosion, is getting more of the public's ire.

More people surveyed said they approved of Obama's handling of the ongoing oil spill than disapproved, but not by large margins or with unusually strong feelings. It contrasts with the public's reaction to former president George W. Bush's response to another Gulf disaster, 2005's hurricane Katrina.

The poll found 42 per cent approve of Obama's actions, 33 per cent disapprove and 21 per cent say they have neutral feelings about his response.

The reaction is strongly along partisan lines. Democrats lean toward favouring Obama's actions,

58 per cent to 19 per cent, with 17 per cent expressing neither approval nor disapproval. By 47 per cent to 27 per cent, Republicans disapprove of Obama's reaction, with 23 per cent saying neither.

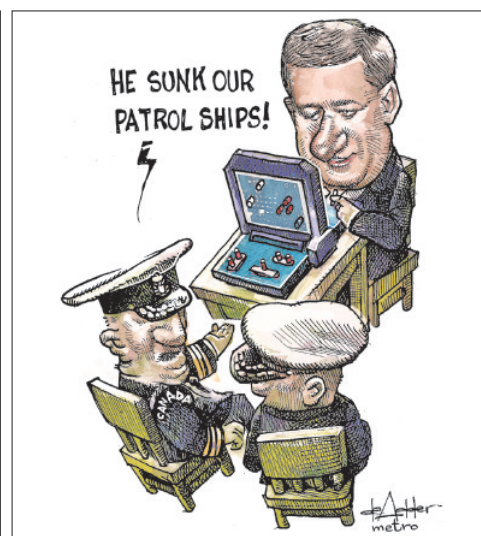
Independents are about evenly split between approval and disapproval.

For Bush after Katrina, the public was harsher in its assessment. An AP-Ipsos poll in mid-September 2005 showed Bush's approval rating was somewhat lower in the weeks following the Katrina disaster than Obama's rating for handling

the current crisis. Back then, 35 per cent approved of Bush's handling of the disaster and 42 per cent disapproved, with 25 per cent not expressing either approval nor disapproval.

The poll also found the public still supports the idea of drilling offshore for oil and gas. By 50 per cent to 38 per cent, more people favour increased coastal drilling for oil and gas than oppose it. While Republicans favour it by a three-to-one margin, Democrats lean toward opposing it, 52 per cent to 36 per cent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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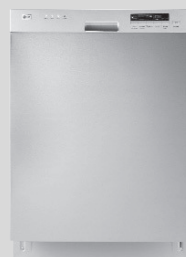
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Tim Hortons Inc. has served up a fatter profit for its investors and says it will roll out a new distribution centre in eastern Ontario by next year. The company says it had \$78.9 million in profit in the first three months of this year — up 18.7 per cent from last year. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONWS.CA

RIM may be working on tablet

TECH Research In Motion is reportedly working on a tablet device to compete with Apple's iPad.

A tablet device would be a major departure for the Waterloo-based company, which thus far has made only handheld devices such as its BlackBerry line of smartphones.

But RIM can't afford to ignore the popularity of

the iPad and the fact other competitors are expected to bring out their own tablet devices, said Ashok Kumar, a technology analyst who has commented on the company's efforts to come out with a tablet.

"RIM can't afford not to participate in that segment," he said in an interview.

A RIM spokesperson declined to comment on the tablet rumours, but Kumar said he is basing his evidence on discussions with RIM suppliers such as Quanta, a hardware manufacturer in Taiwan, and Marvell Technology Group, a California-based maker of silicon solutions.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jazz profits drop

AIRLINE Jazz Air Income Fund says its first-quarter profit dropped nearly 70 per cent amid a 2.7 per cent reduction in departures and higher fuel prices. The income fund, which was created to hold

an interest in the Jazz airline, said Thursday it earned \$6.5 million, down nearly 70 per cent from \$21.1 million a year earlier.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Adobe loves Apple! (Except when Mac's freezing out their top product, Flash).

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New rules for telecoms

Foreign ownership no threat, says Clement

The Harper government is committed to preserving Canadian content on television and radio while allowing for a greater foreign presence in the telecommunications sector, Industry Minister Tony Clement says.

The minister told a House committee yesterday it is possible to separate the two.

"There's no question there's been convergence

in the industry between those who are providing telecommunications and the broadcasting, but in our view it is possible to deal with those separately."



Tony Clement

Ottawa signalled in the

throne speech in March that it wants to increase competition in the telecommunications sector, such as wireless services, by opening it to more foreign investment.

Some critics have said that since companies like Rogers Communications provide both content and distribution of content, the two functions cannot have separate rules.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

India Microsoft Office 2010



Microsoft India executives Sanjay Manchanda, right, Tarun Gulati, left, and Chairman of Microsoft India Ravi Venkatesan look on during the launch of Microsoft Office 2010 in New Delhi, India, yesterday. Microsoft India announced the availability of Office 2010, SharePoint 2010, Visio 2010 and Project 2010 for business customers in India and across the world.

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Royals fire manager

Trey Hillman became the first manager to get fired this season when the Kansas City Royals let him go Thursday after a final win. He was replaced by Ned Yost. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

17

Sports

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Penguins' tribulations not limited to playoffs

Maybe fatigue caught up to the Pittsburgh Penguins. Or perhaps the emotion and commitment that carried them through the 303 games they've played the last three seasons simply ran out.

Whatever it was — and it might take months to sort out — there seemed to be something missing nearly all season from a group that expected to win another Stanley Cup but fell far short of doing so.

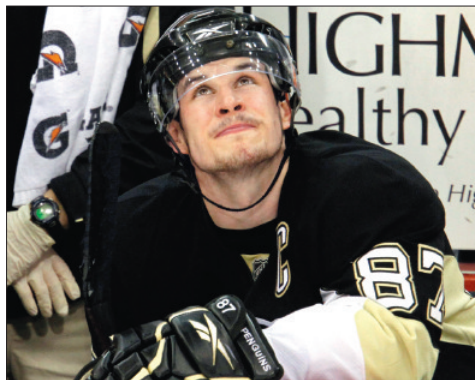
The Penguins were the NHL's best team during the first month of the season. After that, they never approached that level again.

Their 5-2 loss to Montreal in Game 7 of the conference semifinals on Wednesday was one of the worst big-game performances in franchise history, and it neatly summed up eight months' worth of work. The season that was supposed to be simply never was.

They totalled 101 points, two short of finishing second in the Eastern Conference, and a five-game losing streak represented their only poor stretch all season.

Regardless, a team that talked all season of raising its game to the level it achieved while winning the Stanley Cup last season never got there. And now it never will.

Marc-Andre Fleury infrequently resembled the goalie who couldn't be beaten in the final two games against Detroit last year. Sergei Gonchar, coming off a serious knee injury, rarely found his game legs during his worst season statistically in five years. Evgeni



Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby sits on the bench in the final minutes of the Penguins' 5-2 loss to the Montreal Canadiens in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinals on Wednesday.

Malkin's scoring touch vanished for lengthy stretches. And Sidney Crosby simply couldn't do it all by himself.

The Penguins couldn't have looked much better early on, winning 11 of their first 13. As their weaknesses surfaced, they simply were an average team. Counting their seven overtime losses, they dropped 33 of their final 69 regular-

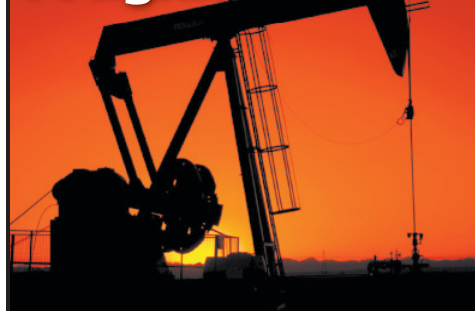
season games.

Now, a new season will bring a new arena, the Consol Energy Center, to replace 49-year-old Mellon Arena. The Penguins didn't give the old building much of a send-off.

"Everything doesn't always work out perfectly the way you want it to," Crosby said.

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NBA PLAYOFFS**THURSDAY'S RESULTS**

Boston 94 Cleveland 85 (Boston wins series 4-2)

HOCKEY**WORLD HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP****THURSDAY'S RESULTS**

Russia 3 Belarus 1

Norway 5 France 1

Slovakia 5 Kazakhstan 1

Czech Republic 2 Sweden 1

BASEBALL**THURSDAY'S AL RESULTS**

Baltimore 6 Seattle 5

Detroit 6 N.Y. Yankees 0

Kansas City 6 Cleveland 4

Texas 2 Oakland 1 (12 ins)

THURSDAY'S NL RESULTS

Florida 2 N.Y. Mets 1

Houston 4 St. Louis 1

San Diego 1 San Francisco 0

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Dalhousie athletic director John MacDonald said yesterday he is "90 per cent" certain his school will submit a bid to host the 2013 and 2014 University Cup national men's hockey tournaments. Canadian Interuniversity Sport's proposal deadline is Friday. "We're just crunching some final numbers," he said. **METRO HALIFAX**

Flynn looking for Memorial Cup win

HOCKEY Dartmouth's Danny Flynn has a chance to win his first Memorial Cup as a head coach in Brandon, Man.

The Moncton Wildcats bench boss and general manager, winner of the 1993 Memorial Cup as an associate coach with the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds, leads his team into this year's 10-day event on Saturday against the Calgary Hitmen.

Flynn made a flurry of mid-season trades after benefiting from the unexpected return of star goalie Nicola Riopel from the professional ranks. His moves lifted the Wildcats to their second QMJHL title in five years.

"The mindset in the Quebec league is different (from the Ontario league)

in that at Christmas, virtually every team is a buyer or a seller," Flynn said. "We knew going forward once Riopel came back from the American Hockey League that if we were going to try and make some noise in the playoffs, we were going to have to try and get a little older, particularly up front."

Nicolas Deschamps, acquired from Chicoutimi, tied for the league lead in scoring; Kelsey Tessier, picked up from Quebec, had 30 points in 21 playoff games; and Gabriel Bourque, nabbed from Baie-Comeau, scored 19 goals among 29 points in the post-season and was named MVP.

But injuries to De-

schamps in the championship series and highly-touted Russian Kirill Kabanov didn't slow the Wildcats down whatsoever.



Danny Flynn

"At no point in our 90-plus games have we ever had our full lineup and for us to beat the No. 1 team in the league in the final without the league scoring champion was a significant accomplishment," Flynn said.

"We had an awful lot of young guys that really had to lift their game and take on increased roles and they responded quite well. We'll be a better team for that at the Cup."

THE CANADIAN PRESS
/METRO HALIFAX

Sports in brief

SOCCER Nova Scotians formed more than a quarter of Canada's women's under-20 soccer identification camp that started yesterday in Vaughn, Ont. Striker Nkem Ezurike (Lower Sackville); midfielders Jenna

Goobie (Lower Sackville), Victoria Parkinson (Dartmouth) and Brianna Moore (Halifax); and backs Melissa Gaudet (Bayside), Maggie Malone (Halifax) and Shanice Maxwell (Truro) are among the 24 par-

ticipants in the four-day camp. The camp, which is an initial preparation for the 2012 FIFA U-20 women's World Cup, concludes on Sunday with an exhibition game against the Toronto Lynx. **METRO HALIFAX**



"The classes are smaller so we really get a lot face time with our instructors."

Bill Cochrane, Automotive Service & Repair – Part-time

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Andrew Russell, left, of Dartmouth, and Gabriel Beauchesne-Sevigny of Trois-Rivières, Que., will compete at this weekend's Canadian sprint canoe-kayak national team trials in Montreal.

The best of the best

Reductions on national team make it even more difficult to gain spot for world sprint championships

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Nova Scotia's elite paddlers will face a stiff challenge to get back to the world sprint canoe-kayak championships this August.

After a record 11 Bluenosers were among 40 Canadians to hit the water on Lake Banook in Dartmouth for last year's worlds, the national team will be reduced by as many as 10 for this year's event in Poznan, Poland, from Aug. 19 to 22.

It's more expensive to send athletes overseas, so the high-performance staff — which begins its selection process on Saturday with the first set of trials in Montreal — focuses on athletes who excel in Olympic disciplines.

"Because (worlds) was in Canada (last year), we decided to enter every single

event," said high-performance director Graham Barton. "When it's Europe, we focus on the process based on performance. We're looking at athletes who are performing well in Olympic events."

This weekend's trials will play a big part in determining who competes at two World Cup events in Europe over the next month.

Those, in turn, play a role in determining who goes to worlds.

Andrew Russell of Dartmouth is one of Nova Scotia's best bets for success along with his C-2 partner Gabriel Beauchesne-Sevigny of Trois-Rivières, Que. They'll look to fend off another C-2 boat featuring Andrew's younger brother, Ben, and Halifax's Richard Dalton.

"Training in Florida (in the pre-season) indicated that Ben and Richard have shown potential to chal-

lenge them," Barton said. "I guess we'll find out this weekend."

Lake Echo native Genevieve Orton, who won bronze in the K-1 4x200 relay at last year's worlds, will look to build on that success this year. Middle Sackville's Jillian D'Alessio is also in the mix in women's kayak.

Three-time Olympic kayaker Karen Furneaux, meanwhile, has moved to New York for family reasons and will sit out this weekend's trials.

Although that hurts her chances of competing at worlds, she is expected to participate in the second set of trials in July.

"It doesn't make it as easy for her," Barton said. "If (in July) some of the younger athletes have come up and demonstrated (they are capable of achieving) world-class results, it's going to make it tough."

Eskimos sign Borhot: Report

CFL The Edmonton Eskimos have signed Saint Mary's Huskies safety Saleem Borhot, according to the Edmonton Journal.

The six-foot-three, 195-pound Calgary native had two interceptions and 24 tackles in eight games as a fourth-year member of the Huskies this past season.

He was not ranked by CFL scouting heading into the draft on May 2 and was something of a surprise second-round choice (12th



Saleem Borhot

overall) of the Eskimos. The Eskimos have high hopes for Borhot after the draft-day retirement of veteran safety Scott Gordon.

The Eskimos' roster also feature former Saint Mary's linebacker Tim St. Pierre. **METRO HALIFAX**

Pair of Rainmen net PBL awards

BASKETBALL Eric Crookshank collected defensive-player-of-the-year honours as the Premier Basketball League handed out its season-ending awards on Thursday.

The six-foot-eight power forward averaged 14.5 points, 13.0 rebounds and 1.5 blocks in 19 games.

Rainmen point guard Eric Gilchrese was named PBL rookie of the year. **METRO HALIFAX**

Weekend, May 14-16, 2010

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Visit Metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, read reviews and watch trailers.

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Movies & Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Love she wrote

Pg 23



Amanda Seyfried stars in *Letters to Juliet*, a film that is as sensuously beautiful as it is emotionally predictable.

Movies

Pg 22



Robin Hood aims high, but Crowe misses the bull's eye.

Music

Pg 28



Toronto electronic band Holy F—k is back with *Latin*.

Television

Pg 30



J.J. Abrams is all for *Lost* ending on its own terms.

Style

Pg 35



Sex and the City fashion is back and shinier than ever.

O'Regan's on Robie



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Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●●● GOOD; ●●● FAIR; ● POOR

Robin Hood misses mark

Robin Hood

Director: Ridley Scott

Stars: Russell Crowe, Cate Blanchett

Classification: PG

Rating: ●●●

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

There's a fundamental flaw in trying to fabricate the origin of a folk hero whose legend has been repeated in various forms since medieval times — it's simply unnecessary.

Oh, it's an interesting idea of course. But the lore of Robin Hood is so ingrained in minds that trying to produce a story that essentially imagines how he became who he became

On the web

• For trailers, screen times, photos — and to buy movie tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

is remarkably redundant.

Filmmaker Ridley Scott teams up with Russell Crowe for the fifth time to reawaken this character but beyond a few flashy action sequences which (in the wake of every medieval fantasy produced since Lord of the Rings) may be impressive but are far from mind-blowing.

Still, this convoluted adaptation shows how a skilled archer in Richard the Lionheart's 12th century crusades ended up bearing news of the King's death to the Royal Court



Russell Crowe shakes up medieval England with his turn as Robin Hood.

and assumed the identity of a Nottingham soldier. As such, Robin rallies his fellow countrymen to confront French armies that plan to invade England at the influence of a royal turncoat.

Got that? If not, don't worry; this movie eagerly meshes too many storylines to form the beginnings of the Robin Hood audiences know and love and will, presumably, fill theatres to see anyhow. As such, the

film's tactical approach struggles to develop a beating heart.

At least Crowe and Cate Blanchett (as a damsel never quite in distress) have the Oscar-winning acting chops to breathe life into this

blockbuster blueprint. In the end however, this Robin Hood may not "rob from the rich and give to the poor," but after emptying your wallet at the box office, you may just wish it did.

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IronManMovie.com

PG

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— Greg Russell, MOVIE SHOW PLUS



"★★★★★.
LOVED IT!
Vanessa Redgrave is
sensational and
Amanda Seyfried will
absolutely steal your heart!"
— Shawn Edwards, FOX-TV

"Truly romantic
and honestly funny!"
— Stephen Schaefer, BOSTON HERALD

"★★★★★.
A lovely and irresistible
tale of true love...
It's altogether wonderful."
— Jeff Craig, SIXTY SECOND PREVIEW

"A romantic, enchanting
and beautiful love story.
'Letters' is the perfect
date movie."
— Maria Salas, TERRA TV

LETTERS TO JULIET

SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS AN APPLEHEAD PICTURES PRODUCTION A MARK CANTON PRODUCTION A FILM BY GARY WINICK "LETTERS TO JULIET" AMANDA SEYFRIED CHRISTOPHER EGAN GAIL GARCIA BERNAL AND VANESSA REDGRAVE FRANCO NERO MUSIC BY ANDREA GUERRA PRODUCED BY CAROLINE KAPLAN ELLEN BARKIN MARK CANTON WRITTEN BY JOSE RIVERA AND TIM SULLIVAN DIRECTED BY GARY WINICK LettersToJuliet-Movie.com

PG

STARTS TODAY CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORIES FOR LOCATIONS AND SHOWTIMES

British Awakening

Rebecca Hall, Dominic West and Imelda Staunton have joined the cast of the proudly British thriller *The Awakening*. Regular TV director Nick Murphy is behind the camera for this one, a tale of ghosts and mystery set in 1920s England. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Love's Letters lost

Letters to Juliet

Director: Gary Winick

Stars: Amanda Seyfried,

Vanessa Redgrave

Classification: PG

Rating: ⓈⓈ%

ANNE BRODIE
for Metro Canada

Amanda Seyfried's everywhere these days. From *Big Love* to a slew of recent films, the doe-eyed blond, who is as ubiquitous as she is unconventionally beautiful, has tackled a range of roles.

Letters to Juliet's Sophie is worlds away from the titular character in *Chloe* or as Needy in *Jennifer's Body*. Even if her choices seem odd, there's no denying the girl is skilled.

And talk about being in the moment. Seyfried starred as Liam Neeson's prostitute/lover in *Chloe* and in *Letter to Juliet* she plays muse to Neeson's mother-in-law Vanessa Red-

grave, the mother of his late wife, Natasha.

As for Redgrave, her presence elevates any film. She is the heart and soul of *Letters*, able to convey meaning with the slightest gesture.

Redgrave has nobility and strength of character, and gives this sweet confection refinement and a degree of believability it needs.

Seyfried's aspiring writer/fact checker Sophie is taking a pre-honeymoon trip to Verona in Italy with her irritating chef fiancé Victor (Gael García Bernal), who will be too busy to pay attention to her after the wedding.

Sophie finds Giulia's "balcony" in Verona that advertises itself as Romeo and Juliet's courtyard. Weeping girls from all over the world post their romantic sob stories on the walls, hoping Giulia will reply with cheering advice. In fact, Giulia's "secretaries" reply in her voice.

Sophie infiltrates the secretarial pool and answers a

letter left by lovelorn Claire, an English teenager, in 1957. Claire (Redgrave) arrives in Verona in hopes of being somehow mystically reunited with her local lost lover through Sophie. Her handsome but snooty grandson Charlie (Chris Egan) is there to hand out reality checks.

Against all common sense, the trio embark on a cross-country search for a lost lover.

The film is straight-up eye candy, shot in Tuscany with its gorgeous tapestry of sensuality, and golden light, food, and wine.

But the premise is beyond belief. A few clunky lines that don't belong break the intended spell with a thud.

There are resonant moments of emotional awakening and tributes to lost loves that bring a tear to the eye, but predictability kills the dramatic tension.

• For a trailer of *Letters to Juliet*, screen times and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies



Vanessa Redgrave, left, and Amanda Seyfried star in *Letters to Juliet*.

No agendas, plan in *Babies* documentary

IAN GORMLEY
for Metro Canada

FEATURE Documentary films have enjoyed unprecedented success with audiences over the last five years, but according to Thomas Balmes, director of the new film *Babies*, all those movies — be it *Al Gore's An Inconvenient Truth* or Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9/11* — offer a skewed version of reality. "The specificity of a documentary is reality," insists the director. "Things with narration, interviews, archives, according to me, are not documentary."

His film, *Babies*, examines the lives of four babies in four different countries — U.S.A., Japan, Namibia and Mongolia from birth to their first steps.

"Here you don't have one thing that has been set up. This is the most rough material in the world; long shots with very little editing, very little music and absolutely no verbal communication," he says. "Nevertheless you have comedy, you have drama you have tensions, the usual things you can expect from a film."

Alain Chabat, most fa-

mous in North America for directing *Asterix and Obelix*, first approached Balmes about film a nature documentary about babies. "I adopted the original idea to something that I felt comfortable with."

Having with Chabat on board as a producer gave him the trust of their financial backers to create such a simple but ambitious film.

"It's very unusual to have such confidence," says Balmes. Normally, "you can't say to a guy at a studio, 'Well I don't know what's going to happen, but believe me it's going to be good.'"

Balmes doesn't favour one form of child rearing over another. Instead, he wants people to compare the way children are raised in different cultures. "I'm fascinated in the variety of cultures."

The director, born in 1960s France, says his parents went out of their way to not impose a specific lifestyle on him as a child. He started making films when he was 20, with an aim to "shift perspective not by documenting other cultures, but by comparing them."

"There is not an agenda behind me, I'm not Michael Moore," he says.

Babies opens in theatres next Friday

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Naomi Watts has signed on to star as Marilyn Monroe in a new adaptation of Joyce Carol Oates' imagined memoir, *Blonde*. The film will be helmed by Andrew Dominik, the director of 2007's *The Assassination Of Jesse James*. **IMDB.COM**

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Commie comedy charmer

The Trotsky

Director: Jacob Tierney
Stars: Jay Baruchel, Colm Feore, Emily Hampshire
Classification: 14A
Rating: ●●●●

RICHARD CROUSE
for Metro Canada

Most 17-year-olds are concerned with school, sports and finding a date for the prom.

Not Leon Bronstein (Jay Baruchel). In *The Trotsky*, a new comedy starring *How to Train Your Dragon*'s lead voice, he is convinced he's the reincarnation of revolutionary Leon Trotsky and tries to unionize the students of Montreal West High School. "The teachers have a union," he says. "I think we deserve the same."

Leon Bronstein's (which was Trotsky's given name) journey from privileged rich kid to budding Bolshevik begins when he organizes a hunger strike at his



Jay Baruchel, centre, has revolution in his head in *The Trotsky*.

father's (Saul Rubinek) clothing factory. In retaliation Dad pulls Leon out of boarding school, slashes his allowance and exiles him to a public school. There he finds his calling (and falls for an older woman played by Emily Hampshire).

Taking the term "student union" a bit too seriously, Leon rails against his new school's tyrannical hierarchy — notably Principal Berkhoff (an ominous Colm Feore) — and goes to absurd

lengths to fulfill his pre-ordained destiny by changing the world — or at least his small corner of it. This Canadian commie comedy is chock full of funny lines, nice performances and echoes of Ferris Bueller's Day Off.

Actor turned director-and-writer Jacob Tierney shows a firm hand behind the camera and has crafted a movie that is a cut above the standard teen caper. It's more inventive, funnier,

grittier than most teen fare, and while Tierney can take credit for much of the film's success, it is Baruchel who really impresses.

In what looks to be Baruchel's breakout year — he has four films on the slate for 2010 including *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* opposite Nic Cage — *The Trotsky* is a delightfully idiosyncratic performance.

Leon may be a little left of centre, both personally and politically, but Baruchel humanizes him. It's a riff on the gawky geek role he patented in *Tropic Thunder* and *Knocked Up*, but this time he adds so much charm (and a good dollop of slapstick) to the performance it's hard not to root for his and Leon's mad mission.

The Trotsky works because of its clever script and optimistic outlook, but it sparkles because of Baruchel's performance.

• For a trailer of *The Trotsky*, photos and screentimes, visit metronews/camovies

No rom-com cliché left untouched

Just Wright

Director: Sanaa Hamri
Stars: Queen Latifah, Common
Classification: PG
Rating: ●●●

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Romantic comedies are like ATM machines for Hollywood studios.

The date night audience is huge and requires little originality or even thought from the filmmakers. Introduce a struggling single lady to Mr. Right, keep them apart until the last reel and you've got yourself a hit.

Just Wright hits all the hallmarks of the genre and it's just as trite as whatever is next on the rom-com assembly line.

Queen Latifah stars as a physical therapist and basketball fanatic who can't seem to find herself a man (sigh). A chance encounter brings her close to her favourite New Jersey Nets player (Common), but her hottie gold-digging sister (Paula Patton) wins his heart.

At least that's true until an injury throws his career in jeopardy and she jumps ship. However, the player now needs a physical therapist and, yadda yadda yadda, love conquers all.



Queen Latifah stars in *Just Wright*.

From the first scene the filmmakers slavishly follow every tired rom-com formula imaginable. Not a single character appears on screen without servicing the love story.

An above average cast led by the likable Latifah/Common duo and aided by Pam "Foxy Brown" Grier and Phylicia "Mrs. Huxtable" Rashad do what they can with the material, but never make their characters feel like more than genre types.

• For a trailer of *Just Wright*, screentimes and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies

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Roller Coaster Tycoon up for silver screen

The popular video game simulation Roller Coaster Tycoon will be dropping into theaters courtesy of Sony Pictures Animation. Heat Vision reports that the studio picked up the rights and Harald Zwart (*The Karate Kid*) will most likely helm the film. IMDb.com

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Movie morsels**Date Night**

●●●●

REVIEW I'm not entirely sure where *Date Night* would be without Tina Fey and Steve Carell. After all, the two television comedians-turned-big screen stars take what is an overly familiar premise, directed by an often critically aloof filmmaker, and turn it into a thoroughly entertaining evening at the multiplex. The pair play Phil and Claire, a bored, married New Jersey couple who try to spice up their weekly "date night" by spontaneously going to a trendy new restaurant in Manhattan. Finding the establishment booked solid, they take another couple's reservation only to get through the risotto before two corrupt cops with ties to the mafia escort them into an alley and demand a mysterious flash drive. From there, the mistaken marrieds end up on the run, a situation which generates comic comments.

Ned Ehrbar/Metro World News

pole, but one a filmmaker like Jon Favreau can make riding a wave of goodwill after the franchise's critically and commercially successful first chapter two years ago. Unfortunately, Favreau and company spend the next two hours squandering all that good will. The film's primary problem is that it sidelines its main hero and villain, both Stark and Whiplash sequestered in their labs tinkering while supporting characters carry on without them.

Ned Ehrbar/Metro World News

A Nightmare on Elm Street

REVIEW Wes Craven's original *A Nightmare on Elm Street* is a classic, and rightfully so. Sam Bayer's mammoth budgeted remake is not. In fact it ain't much of anything. Recycling not only the plot but most of the original's set pieces, *NOES 2010* stars a gaggle of vacant, pretty teens who battle sleep deprivation in order to evade the nightmare infiltrating, razor-gloved wrath of a scar tissue coated boogeyman named Freddy Krueger (Watchman's Jackie Earle Haley). Haley is poorly used and lacks enough menace for the role of a homicidal, undead child molester; every time he's on screen, you'll find yourself pining for Robert Englund.

Chris Alexander/For Metro Canada

Iron Man 2

●●●

REVIEW *Iron Man 2* opens not with a bang but with a whimper, as Mickey Rourke's Ivan Vanko — later to become villain Whiplash, weeps over his dying father in a cluttered Moscow apartment. It's a big risk for an action tent-

Studios milk outlaw tale

InFocus

Richard Crouse

metronews.ca/infocus

Robin Hood comes in all shapes and sizes. According to the International Association for Robin Hood Studies (yes, there is such a thing), the 700-year-old hero of Sherwood Forest has been the subject of one of the earliest Legoland building systems, the inspiration for the DC Comics superhero Green Arrow and a flour company spokesman.

On film the notorious archer and outlaw's depictions are just as diverse. The first American Robin Hood film was a surreal 1912 silent featuring the Pal-

isades of New Jersey standing in for Sherwood Forest and Hood's inner personality portrayed by animal imagery superimposed over his face.

Less strange, but still rather odd, was the Canadian cartoon television series *Rocket Robin Hood*. It's most notable for its crazy theme song — "For now, they sing, 'with our Robin, we live on a star'—and cut-rate herky-jerky animation.

In live action he's been played by everyone from John Cleese in the time-travelling comedy *Time Bandits* to Frank Sinatra as Robbo in *Robin and the 7 Hoods*, a musical that transplanted the Robin Hood fable to 1930s gangland Chicago.

This weekend Russell Crowe takes on the role in a more traditional telling of the story from director Ridley Scott.

The most famous version of the "rob from the rich



Kevin Costner starred in *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*.

and give to the poor" legend is 1938's *The Adventures of Robin Hood* with Errol Flynn. Although it's his best known role Flynn has said he found playing the outlaw boring, but audiences loved him and the movie's sense of spectacle.

At the time of its release it was Warner's most expensive and action packed film, costing more than \$2 million and holding the

record for the largest number of stuntmen ever used on any one movie. These days the movie may have faded from the collective's memory, but know it or not, you are probably familiar with the sound of Robin's arrow as it flies through the air. That sound effect is a favorite Ben Burtt who has recycled it in almost all of the *Star Wars* films.

Also well known, but not as well regarded is *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, featuring Kevin Costner in the lead role.

Not only did it feature Costner's atrocious English accent but it pushed another, far superior, telling of the tale — 1991's *Robin Hood* with Patrick Bergin and Uma Thurman — off the big screen to a direct-to-video release.

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchase33@hotmail.com.

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Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., MAY. 14 TO THURS., MAY. 20. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

HALIFAX

BAYERS LAKE

190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
902-876-4800**Alice in Wonderland 3D** (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:20-3:15-6:45-9:30**The Back-up Plan** (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:05-3:40-6:40-9:25**Clash of the Titans 3D** (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:30-9:20**Date Night** (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 12:20-3:10-7:15-9:50**Furry Vengeance** (G) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 12:45-3:40-6:25-9:10**How to Train Your Dragon 3D** (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:35-3:20-6:50-9:25**Iron Man 2** (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:12-15:12-30-3:15-3:30-6:20-6:45-6:55-9:20-9:45-10:05**The Last Song** (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:35-4:25-7:30-10:10**Letters to Juliet** (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:15-10:05**The Losers** (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-7:25-9:55**A Nightmare on Elm Street** (18) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:45-4:40-7:35-10:20**Oceans** (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:25-2:50-7:10-9:20**Robin Hood** (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 11:45-12:50-3:40-6:30-7:30-9:40-10:30

IMAX

190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
902-876-4800**Iron Man 2: The IMAX Experience** (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-4:70-10:15

OXFORD THEATRE

6408 Quinpool Rd.
902-423-7488**Iron Man 2** (STC) Fri 6:30-9:15 Sat-Sun 3:45-6:30-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:15

PARK LANE

5657 Spring Garden Rd.
902-423-4860**Date Night** (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:35-7:20-9:50-11:55 Stadium Seating Sun 1:35-7:20-9:50 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:50-7:20-9:50**The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo** (18) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:30-4:70-7:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:70-7:30**Iron Man 2** (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:15-1:10-3:30-4:20-7:45-10:11-11:45 Stadium Seating Sun 12:15-1:10-3:30-4:20-6:30-7:10-9:20-10:20 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:30-4:20-6:30-7:10-9:20-10**Jurassic Park** (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 11:45**Letters to Juliet** (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:50-3:40-6:40-9:10-11:30 Stadium Seating Sun 12:50-3:40-6:40-9:10 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:40-6:40-9:10**A Nightmare on Elm Street** (18) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:20-4:10-7:10-9:45-11:50 Stadium Seating Sun 1:20-4:10-7:10-9:45 Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 4:10-7:10-9:45 Stadium Seating Wed 4:10-9:45 Stadium Seating Thu 4:10-7:10-9:45**Robin Hood** (STC) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:30-6:20-9:40 No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:10-6:20-9:40**The Trotsky** (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:40-3:20-6:50-9:20-11:35 Stadium Seating Sun 12:40-3:20-6:50-9:20 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:20-6:50-9:20

LOWER SACKVILLE

LOWER SACKVILLE

760 Sackville Dr., Downsview Plaza
902-869-2022**The Back-up Plan** (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 7:10-9:25 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2:15-4:30-7:10-9:25 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:10-9:25

Robert Downey Jr. reprises his superhero role in Iron Man 2.

Date Night (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 7:15 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2:20-4:20-7:15 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:15**Furry Vengeance** (G) Stadium Seating Fri 7 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:30-3:50-7 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7**Iron Man 2** (STC) Stadium Seating Fri 6:40-7:30-9:25 Stadium Seating Sat 2:10-2:30-4:45-6:40-7:30-9:25 Stadium Seating Sun 2:10-2:30-4:45-6:40-7:45-9:25 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:40-7:45-9:25**Letters to Juliet** (STC) Stadium Seating Fri 6:50-9:20 Stadium Seating Sat 1:45-4:15-6:50-9:20 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:50-9:20**A Nightmare on Elm Street** (18) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:15**Oceans** (G) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:10**Robin Hood** (STC) Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-9:30 Stadium Seating Sat 2:30-9:30 Stadium Seating Sun 2:30-9:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:30

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145 Shubie Dr., Dartmouth Crossing
902-481-3251**The Back-up Plan** (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 11:55-2:55-6:40-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:50-3:40-6:40-9:20**Date Night** (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:35-3:05-6:15-8:50**Furry Vengeance** (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:15-3:35-6:50-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 11:35-1:50-4:15-6:50-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:20-3:35-6:50-9:05**How to Train Your Dragon 3D** (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:45-3:55-7:20-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 11:50-2:15-4:40-7:20-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:45-3:55-7:20-10:05**Iron Man 2** (STC) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 11:45-12:25-12:55-3:15-3:45-4:10-6:30-7:8-9:15-9:45 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 12:15-12:55-3:15-3:45-4:10-6:30-7:8-9:15-9:45 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:15-12:55-3:15-3:45-4:10-6:30-7:8-9:15-9:45**Just Wright** (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:15-4:30-7:30-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:15-4:30-7:30-9:55**Letters to Juliet** (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:25-3:25-6:20-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 3:25-6:20-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:25-3:25-6:20-9:10**A Nightmare on Elm Street** (18) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:05-4:20-7:10-9:50**Robin Hood** (STC) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 11:30-12:45-3:30-6:10-6:45-9:45-10:15 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:30-2:30-6:10-6:45-9:30-10**Truro** (STC) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 11:30-12:45-3:30-6:10-6:45-9:45-10:15 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:30-2:30-6:10-6:45-9:30-10**Truro** (STC) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 11:30-12:45-3:30-6:10-6:45-9:45-10:15 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:30-2:30-6:10-6:45-9:30-10

TRURO

TRURO

20 Treaty Trail, Millbrook
902-895-8020**The Back-up Plan** (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-9 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 2:10-6:30-9 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 2:10-6:30-9 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:30-9**Date Night** (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 7:20-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 2:30-7:20-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:50-8:50**Furry Vengeance** (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 7:20-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 2:30-7:20-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7**Iron Man 2** (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 6:50-8:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat 2:20-2:40-6:50-8-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sun 2:20-2:40-6:50-8-9:30-9 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:20-7:30-9**Letters to Juliet** (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 7:10-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 2:50-7:10-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 2:50-6:40-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:40-9:20**A Nightmare on Elm Street** (18) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:10**Robin Hood** (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat 6:40-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat 2:6-40**Date Night** (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Sun 2:40-6:10-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Thu 6:10-9:10

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The Back-up Plan (PG) Fri 7:10-9:40 Sat 2:05-7:10-9:40 Sun 2:05-6:25-8:55 Mon-Thu 6:25-8:55**Date Night** (PG) Fri-Sat 7:20-9:45 Sun-Thu 6:35-9**Furry Vengeance** (G) Fri 6:55 Sat 2:20-6:55 Sun 2:20-6:05 Mon-Thu 6:05**How to Train Your Dragon** (PG) Sat-Sun 2:35**Iron Man 2** (STC) No Passes Fri 6:45-8:30-9:35 No Passes Sat 2:10-2:45-6:45-8:30-9:35 No Passes Sun 2:10-2:45-6:45-8:30-9:35 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:45-8:50**Letters to Juliet** (STC) Fri 7:25 Sat 2:30-7:25 Sun 2:30-6:15-8:40 Mon-Thu 6:15-8:40**A Nightmare on Elm Street** (18) Fri-Sat 9:10 Sun-Thu 8:25**Robin Hood** (STC) No Passes Fri 6:30-9:30 No Passes Sat 2:6-30-9:30 No Passes Sun 2:7-30 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:30ACADEMY AWARD® WINNER
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Music

The sacred and the profane

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

Brian Borcherdt is relieved. His band's new album is finally on the streets. "It's like an annoying little brat of a child leaving for college," he says, joking about Latin, Holy F—k's latest effort.

The last time the Toronto-based electronica band released any new music was 2007. Since then, the group has gone from relatively obscurity to globe-trotting touring act.

"The last disc was a slow burning record," says Borcherdt. "We toured it for the last four years."

But, being in a band like Holy F—k, which started as an improvisational live act, doesn't mean they have to stick to a formula every night. With their various keyboards, pedals and noise machines, they can crank out any sounds they want.

"We don't feel like we



Latin is the latest album from Holy F—k. The Toronto electronic band's last album, LP, was nominated for the 2008 Polaris Music Prize.

have to play a certain record," he says. "We're always playing new material and mixing it with old material. Even those songs have changed so much that we forget they're old."

While the band still improvises on stage, their albums, which were previously written on the fly, are now fully formed tunes.

"This record has more thought out ideas than

anything in the past," says Borcherdt. "We write things, craft them on stage and then bring them into the studio."

While the new disc still has plenty of frenetic

noise, clubby beats and discordant, drone-y electronica, it's also softer and more atmospheric than previous discs. Some may miss the wild pace of their old songs, but this is clearly an album by a band. The songs are focused and clear — you can actually hear Latin America's groovy rhythm track and spacey keyboard sounds, while the catchy SHT MTN sounds like a more traditional electro-pop rocker.

That tighter sound is a product of a once loose lineup of players becoming an actual touring, money-making act. At one point they just played with whoever was around, but as more cities came calling, the group was forced to solidify their players and become an actual band.

"When we started we wanted to share this band with anyone who was willing to play," he says. "Any of our friends could join us. But then we became more

"We're always playing new material and mixing it with old material. Even those songs have changed so much that we forget they're old."

Brian Borcherdt

about making records and touring and you can imagine that it's easier to do with an actual band than an imaginary one."

But being a band isn't enough. It helps to know what you're doing. "We've gotten better at this," says Borcherdt, who, like the rest of the group, got his start playing in rock bands. "When we started we didn't know anything. It was more about plugging this thing and seeing how it feeds back. Now I know what's going to happen when we do something to a mixer."

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Street dates and '180 gram vinyl'

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

metronews.ca/soundcheck

After 100 Metro columns, perhaps it's time to answer some reader email:

Q Why is new music always released on Tuesday?

— Ian, Vancouver.

A Before the 1980s, a new album could end up in the stores on any day of the official week of release. Exactly what day it appeared on the shelves depended on when a particular store got its shipment from the record label. This, however, made keeping track of sales very difficult and inefficient. It was also unfair to stores and fans outside of large urban centres — those places far away from the warehouses, where you might wait a week or more for the shipment of that album to arrive.

Eventually, the labels got together and agreed that the supply chain would be

coordinated so that all new releases appeared in stores simultaneously on the same day of the week. Tuesdays are now known as the "street date."

Things are slightly different in the U.K. where the street date is Monday. Before the Internet, this wasn't an issue. Now, however, it's common for a North American artist to see their record on sale in the U.K. a full 24 hours before it appears in stores at home.

Q What is this "180 gram vinyl" I keep hearing about?

— Sadie, Toronto.

A A good question for people who have rediscovered vinyl. Normal records are pressed from polyvinyl chloride. When spread out to album thickness, they can weigh anywhere from 100 to 120 grams. Audiophile-grade 180 gram vinyl weighs 180 grams per square yard. This makes the record thicker, heavier and less prone to warping so that the tone arm tracking is more true, resulting in (theoretically) better sound.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

Amazon.ca's bestselling albums

1. Exile On Main Street (Delux Edition), The Rolling Stones; 2. Forgiveness Rock Record, Broken Social Scene;
3. Sea of Cowards, The Dead Weather; 4. Troubadour Live, Carole King & James Taylor. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

The facts of Li(f)e

Hip-hop artist Sage Francis draws inspiration from his fans

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada



"Life is just lie with an f in it and death is definite."

It's surprising how one off-the-cuff lyric can become the mantra for thousands.

Such is the case with Paul "Sage" Francis and this simple observation from the 2002 song The Cure. Over the past eight years, the Providence, R.I., hip-hop artist's words have proven so meaningful to fans that they have taken on a life (pun intended) of their own.

"The concept is something I followed from my fan base," Francis admits. "That particular lyric resonated very strongly with a portion of (them). They started encapsulating that by spelling it (with) the f in parenthesis. It became the symbol of that lyric; that concept."

Thanks to the devout enthusiasm of his followers, Francis felt compelled to utilize the line as the title of his latest full-length album Li(f)e. Delving deeper into exactly what that statement could mean resulted in 12 diverse tracks featuring everything from straightforward hip hop to borderline indie rock, an approach Francis feels is as unusual and surprising as that which it endeavours to understand.

"Life isn't a straight line and neither is this record,"



Li(f)e is the new album from hip-hop artist Sage Francis.

he asserts. "It varies depending on the mood of what I'm saying. For the most part though, it's (about) how we live life accepting certain lies for our own sanity. Some are good and some are bad, but it's important that we stay aware of the myths, lies and falsehoods, weighing them against how they affect us as people. The driving force of a lot of this album's content is discussing those things and how they apply to my life."

Initially apprehensive about tying himself even closer to the ideology, Francis admits that as Li(f)e began to unfold, he realized that the album was more about appreciating his own vision than worrying about that of others.

"Everything came together and worked on multiple levels," he sighs with relief. "I felt it was time for me to use that symbol of that life spelling and bring it full-circle."

"This album is my release; my escape since I can't discuss this in an everyday conversation type of way."

Sage Francis

"This album is my release; my escape since I can't discuss this in an everyday conversation type of way."



Dynasty is the new album from West Coast House artist Kaskade.

Kaskade blends house, pop vocals

ROB MCMAHON
for Metro Canada



Kaskade is known for West Coast House, but he's just as interested in pop vocals.

On Dynasty, the DJ/producer recruits several singers — an approach he's taken since leaving Chicago to join the San Francisco Bay Area's neo-soul deep house scene. "I've never done the whole 'put your hands in the air for a moment' thing. I want to be more subtle," he said. "(Martina Sorbara) was the only (vocal track) not done in real time. I coach the vocalists, especially for the lyrics that I've written. I'll sit in the studio and give suggestions — I'm very specific."

When choosing a singer, Kaskade (real name Ryan Raddon) has one simple rule — he has to immediately love her voice. After that he draws on sub-genres from electro to progressive to build productions that highlight each singer's unique sound. Mindy Gledhill, whom he's worked with for years, offers a

smoky, soulful delivery, while first-time collaborator Sorbara (of Toronto electro-pop band Dragonette) sizzles with punk attitude.

"Becky (Jean Williams' voice) almost has an indie sound to it, and a little bit of a twang," explained Kaskade. "The song I did with Tiësto — Only You — made sense for her. We set up the track so it has that muddy sound, and let her vocals sit on top."

Kaskade's most proud of All That You Give — an interesting choice, since it's the album's least 'House-y' track. While it started as a club tune, after hearing Gledhill's bitter-sweet vocals, he stripped it down to just guitar, strings, and a few understated beats.

"I think there's a really cool tension in the song: there's musical tension, and lyrically a lot of tension too. I had this idea to start with strings and build the tension around that," he said. "I pulled it back, since it was so beautiful to hear Mindy singing ... The other stuff was kind of distracting."

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ABC has picked up its first new series for the fall, the drama No Ordinary Family. It follows a family with superhero powers and stars Michael Chiklis (The Shield) as the patriarch and Julie Benz (Dexter) as his wife. **TVGUIDE.COM**

Television

Comedy Central pulls the plug on Sarah Silverman

TELEVISION On her Comedy Central show, Sarah Silverman got drunk on cough syrup, mocked the abortion rights debate and seduced none other than God.

That's all over now.

The network says The Sarah Silverman Program, which recently ended its third out-

rageous season, won't be back for a fourth.

Inspired by Silverman's persona as a standup comic, the scripted show featured her as a flighty, self-consumed slacker living in the fictional town of Valley Village.

Audience erosion was deemed the main reason for cancelling the show.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



J.J. Abrams' jam-packed life



J.J. Abrams' groundbreaking Lost is coming to an end.

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

J.J. Abrams is one busy man.

With his latest hit series, Fringe, gaining new fans, several new TV and film projects in the works and the teaser trailer for his next film, Super 8, burning up the Internet, the writer, director and producer has one of the most crowded plates in the entertainment industry.

At least one of his projects, the groundbreaking TV series Lost, is wrapping up. Abrams found the time to sit down with Metro — on a Sunday, no less — to talk shop.

which three years ago, I think was a shockingly bold thing for the network to agree to. But I think it was really smart because I think that the show will end on its own terms. It will end in a way that, I think, will allow the show to not have gone on two years after it should have.

Q How many projects are you working on at the moment?

A I'm getting some more fingers sewed onto my hand. There are a number of projects, but I'm one of a number of people working on those things. It's not like it's me alone in this room. We're editing a new show [Undercovers, for NBC]. I wrote that with Josh Reims, who I used to work with on Felicity. We're also prepping this Mission: Impossible movie and working on the Star Trek sequel. Damon is writing Star Trek with Alex [Kurtzman] and Bob [Orsi]. Bryan Burk is my producing partner on everything.

Q What can you say about Lost coming to an end?

A I feel like Lost did a wonderful thing in ABC and Damon [Lindelo] and Carlton [Cuse] came to this agreement to allow the show to end after the sixth season,

Q How involved are you with Fringe?

A Well, my role in Fringe now is to be there when they need me to be there, and it actually would be more damaging to come in, you know, kind of periodically and just kick things around. Because if you're not in there and present for all the discussions, you're reacting to certain things that are in process, and you're not as informed. They're running the show. So it's hard for me to say, "OK, you run the show unless I come in and screw you up." This is a big question for me: How much do I get involved?

Q Is it tough juggling so many projects?

A There are moments it's just, you know, it's nightmarish because you realize each one of these you want to work on full-time. On the other hand it seems, though I have very big eyes. I get very optimistic about how much I can do. The truth is I still take my kid to school every day and put him to bed every night. I don't work on weekends.

Q Except for today. Right. My kids went, "What?" "I'm really sorry. This is an exception."

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
31	31	31	ABC	News Center	World News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Wife Swap (N)	Primitel: What Would You	20/20		
7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Degrassi	TMZ (N)	Wife Swap (N)	ABC's Next Top Model	Miami Medical		
11	11	11	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ron James: West Coast Wild		CBC News: The fifth estate	CBC News: The National	The Hour (N)		
32	32	32	CBS	WBZ News (N)	Evening News	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ghost Whisperer (N)	Medium "Dead Meat"	Miami Medical		
6	6	6	CHIF	Entertainment	ET Canada	Shark Tank (N)		Friday Night Lights (N)	Brothers & Sisters (N)	News Final (N)		
9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Access H.	Medium "Dead Meat"		Ghost Whisperer (N)	The Bridge (N) (DVS)	CTV News		
36	36	36	FOX	Seinfeld	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House "Knight Fall"	Kitchen Nightmares (N)	Fox First		
12	12	12	NBC	News	Nightly News	Access H.	Extra (N)	Friday Night Lights (N)	Dateline NBC (HDTV)			
55	55	55	SCOR	Red Heat	Covers	Poker Canada Cup		WWE SmackDown!		Wrestling		
53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	NHL Hockey Philadelphia Flyers at Boston Bruins (HDTV) (Live)				SportsCentre		
16	16	16	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal		
70	70	70	APTN	APTN National News (N)	Fish Out of Blessings	Cashing In	Rabbit Fall	Patriot Games *** (1992, Suspense)				
37	37	37	BRVO	Emily of New Moon	Spectacle: Elvis	BravoFACT	Camera	White Collar		Dexter		
49	49	49	COM	Just for Laughs	Air Force	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Now		
18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitz	John King: USA (N)	Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)	Copied 360			
38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	Dirty Jobs		Canada's Worst Handyman	Egypt Unwrap			
48	48	48	HGTV	Extreme Makeover: Home	House	For Rent		Relocation: Phil Down Under	House			
46	46	46	HIST	Ultimate Engineering	Ax Men (HDTV)	Nostradamus Effect		Kiss the Girls *** (1997, Suspense)				
17	17	17	MM	Buffy the Vampire Slayer	Styl'd	The Vampire Diaries		Bram Stoker's Dracula (1992, Horror)				
206	206	206	PIX	(6:50) Two Weeks Notice (2002)		(8:35) Pitch (1997, Documentary)		Spy Game *** (2001, Suspense)				
39	39	39	SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Relic Hunter		Nightmare at the End of the Hall (2008, Drama)		Kenny vs.		
40	40	40	SLICE	Til Debt-Part	Wedding SOS	Rich Bride Poor Bride		Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Spilled		
21	21	21	TLC	Say Yes	Say Yes	Four Weddings (HDTV)		Say Yes	Say Yes	Weddings		
22	22	22	W	House-Sell	House-Sell	Supernanny		How to Look Good Naked		Little Miss Sunshine (2006, Comedy-Drama)		
27	27	27	YTV	iCarly	To Be Indie	LoveWrecked (2006, Adventure)	Amanda Byrnes	Things I Hate	Survive This	To Be Indie		

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
31	31	31	ABC	News Center	World News	Inside Edition	At the Movies	Just Like Heaven *** (2005, Romance-Comedy)		Castle		
7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		N-FIVE-Childhood		Demons From Her Past (2007, Suspense) (DVS)		Stargate Atl.		
11	11	11	CBC	National	Hockey Night	NHL Hockey Playoffs: Teams TBA		(HDTV) (Live)		Movie		
32	32	32	CBS	WBZ News (N)	Evening News	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	The Bourne Ultimatum *** (2007, Action) Matt Damon, Julia Stiles				
6	6	6	CHIF	16:9 Picture	renegade	Cheaters' Club *** (2006, Drama)		Katya Gardner		News Final (N)		
9	9	9	CJCH	W5 (DVS)		Law & Order: SVU		Flashpoint (DVS)		CTV News		
36	36	36	FOX	MLB Baseball		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Cops (N)	Cops (N)	America's Most Wanted		
12	12	12	NBC	Horse Racing	News	Access Hollywood (N)		Paranthood "Solace"		Law & Order (HDTV)		
55	55	55	SCOR	MMA Show	Score Today	WWE Vintage Collection		Score Rewind	Cabby Unlimit	Score Now		
53	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre (HDTV)		NHL Hockey Playoffs: Teams TBA				SportsCentre		
16	16	16	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal		
70	70	70	APTN	Tears	The Mix	MYTV	Rez Tunez	Aboriginal Day		NCI Jam 2009		
37	37	37	BRVO	Arts & Minds	BravoVideos	Flicker		Star Portraits	Books-Film	El Cantante *** (2006, Biography)		
49	49	49	COM	Comedy Now (DVS)		Corner Gas	Corner Gas	Hiccups	Dan for Mayor	The Simpsons	Canadian	
18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitz		Newsroom		Anderson Cooper 360		Larry King Live	Newsroom	
38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	Cash Cab		Canada's Worst Handyman		Deadliest Catch	License	
48	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		Buy Me	Agent-Adult	Property	For Rent	Outdoor Room	Genevieve	
46	46	46	HIST	(6) Tsunami, the Aftermath *** (2006, Docudrama) Tim Roth, Sophie Okonedo				The Kingdom *** (2007, Action)		Muchmusic Countdown		
17	17	17	MM	The Vampire Diaries		Bram Stoker's Dracula *** (1992, Horror)				Happy Gilmore *** (1996, Comedy)		
206	206	206	PIX	(6:30) The Wedding Singer		(8:15) Little Nicky *** (2000, Comedy)						
39	39	39	SHOW	I Am Legend	About a Girl	ReGenesis (HDTV)		The House Next Door (2006, Suspense)		I Am Legend		
40	40	40	SLICE	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Housewives/NYC		Housewives/Atl.		Housewives/N.J.	Matchmaker	
21	21	21	TLC	48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		Disappeared (HDTV)	Disappeared	
22	22	22	W	The First Wives Club (1996)		Friends With Money *** (2006, Comedy-Drama)				Mad Money *** (2008, Comedy)		
27	27	27	YTV	Kid vs. Kat	League-Evil	Zeke's Pad	Prank Patrol	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird	Prank Patrol	Survive This

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
31	31	31	ABC	News Center	World News	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives	Brothers	
7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		TMZ (N)		Gossip Girl (N)		Monk	Law & Order	
11	11	11	CBC	To Be Announced		Victor: The Victor Davis Story (2008)		Biography (DVS)		CBC News: The National	fifth estate	
32	32	32	CBS	Evening News	WBZ News (N)	60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)		Survivor: Heroes vs. Villains (N)		Survivor: Hero		
6	6	6	CHIF	Global Nat.	Cleveland	The Simpsons	Family Guy	Survivor: Heroes vs. Villains (N)		Survivor: Hero		
9	9	9	CJCH	Law & Order A man's double life is revealed (N)				Flashpoint (DVS)		CTV News		
36	36	36	FOX	Cold Case		"Til Death (N)	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy	American Dad	
12	12	12	NBC	News	Nightly News	The 2010 Miss USA Pageant (Live)		MMA Fight Night		The Celebrity Apprentice (HDTV) (N)		
55	55	55	SCOR	Score Today		The WWE Experience				Score Rewind	Score Now	
53	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre		NHL Hockey Playoffs: Teams TBA				SportsCentre		
16	16	16	A&E	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Dog the Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	
70	70	70	APTN	Mighty River	Down2Earth	Canadian Geographic		Call of the Wild "The Arrival"		We Shall Remain: Tecumseh's Vision		
37	37	37	BRVO	Flicker		Arts & Minds	BravoFACT	Spectacle: Elvis		Traffic *** (2000, Crime Drama)		
49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Laughs	Hiccups	Dan for Mayor	Comedy Now	Comedy Now	South Park	Ugly Amer	Summer
18	18	18	CNN	Newsroom		Newsroom		Anderson Cooper 360		Larry King Live		
38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	MythBusters		Drain the Ocean		Holmes Inspection	MythBusters	
48	48	48	HGTV	Holmes Inspection		House	House	Sarah's House	Home to Flip	Ice Road Truckers (HDTV)	House-Bryan	
46	46	46	HIST	Ice Pilots NWT (HDTV)		Ice Road Truckers (HDTV)		Cities of the Underworld		Ocean's Eleven (2001, Comedy-Drama)		
17	17	17	MM	Secret Life of American Teen		Secret Life of American Teen		Degrassi: TNG	Styl'd	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	
206	206	206	PIX	Univ. Soldier	We Were Soldiers *** (2002, War) Mel Gibson, Greg Kinnear			Tell Me No Lies (2007, Suspense)		Bright Young Things *** (2003)		
39	39	39	SHOW	Other Boleyn	Kink in Hair	Pure Pwnage	Trailer Park	Rich Bride Poor Bride		Wedding SOS	Wedding SOS	
40	40	40	SLICE	Buy Me	Buy Me	The Big Flip	Marriage	Paralyzed and Pregnant		Pregnant at 70 (HDTV)	Baby-Crazy	
21	21	21	TLC	Hoarding: Buried Alive		Paralyzed and Pregnant		Come Dine With Me		Cupcake Girls	Grocery Bag	
22	22	22	W	Mad Money	Hollyw'd Best	Supernanny				Fries That?	Fries That?	Survive This
27	27	27	YTV	The Princess Bride *** (1987, Adventure) Cary Elwes				Family Biz				

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The man behind Sheldon

Big Bang Theory star credits writing for character's success

Playing Sheldon Cooper isn't rocket science. Nor, for that matter, is it theoretical physics, Sheldon's chosen field as the science virtuoso of The Big Bang Theory.

So says Jim Parsons, who plays Sheldon on that hit CBS sitcom.

"It's all right there in the script," Parsons insists. "I'm not trying to eschew credit or be falsely modest, but there's a part of me that feels like I didn't come up with anything. For me, for the most part, it's very clear: It's the words."

Fans of Big Bang might take issue with Parsons' self-appraisal, particularly after spending a cordial, non-Sheldony interview session with him. Granted, most people don't use the word "eschew" in everyday discourse, but for the most part, Parsons strikes a pleasingly impressive contrast to his sitcom alter ego, who happens to be socially challenged, nerdy, high-strung, blunt-spoken and beyond the pale in his devotion to science.

Parsons, on the other hand, has tried and given up understanding physics, is cheery and unassuming, and has a twinkle in his eye as he talks about the show. At 6-foot-2 and a young-looking 37, he shares Sheldon's lankiness, but not the uptight manner or Sheldon's goofy-sounding "gotcha!" substitute: "bazinga!"

All in all, it's an object lesson in his skill as an actor.

Big Bang, concluding its third season this month, places Sheldon in a familiar sitcom premise: He shares an apartment with friend and fellow brainy CalTech scientist Leonard Hofs-



Jim Parsons, right, plays nerdy Sheldon Cooper in the CBS sitcom The Big Bang Theory.

tadter (played by Johnny Galecki, Roseanne). Geeky research chums Howard (Simon Helberg) and Rajesh (Kunal Nayyar) drop by with comically timed frequency.

And across the hall, by sitcom good fortune, resides Penny, a lovely blonde played by Kaley Cuoco (8 Simple Rules) who aspires to be an actress but pays the rent by waiting tables at a Cheesecake Factory. She is notably not a genius.

If this thumbnail description sounds a bit by-the-book, Parsons wouldn't disagree.

"I said it from the beginning: From the description, some people are going to say, 'I don't care. I don't want to watch two nerds and their pretty neighbour.'"

Happily, The Big Bang Theory began life as much more. Then, under the tutelage of sitcom maestro Chuck Lorre (Two and a Half Men) it continued to grow.

The creative evolution of the show might be framed in the same terms with which Sheldon received Penny's greeting, "How ya been?"

"Well," said Sheldon, literal as ever, "my existence is a continuum, so I've been what I am at each point in the implied time period."

Turns out, there was a point in Parsons' career continuum when even he wasn't sure how he felt about the show.

A Houston native who had a recurring role on Judging Amy and appeared in films including Garden State and School for Scoundrels, he arrived to audition for Sheldon having no clear reaction to the show overall.

He only knew from the script that he wanted to play Sheldon. "I wanted the chance to talk this weird way that he talks, and this odd way he communicates with people."

Bazinga! The role as this

head-in-the-clouds science savant was his.

"Leonard wants to reach out and be part of the normal world. But Sheldon doesn't see the point, and in fact thinks the farther you can stay away from it, the better your work's going to be," Parsons sums up.

Meanwhile, Penny is sufficiently astute to find things to like in both these guys, eccentricities and all. She has the insight to appreciate their mental capacity, however far it might loom beyond her reach.

So does Parsons, by the way.

"They're not just nerds, they're not just geeks. They are geniuses! They're beautiful minds," he declares. "And I've come to find that, for me as an actor, playing Sheldon opens up anything. Things that he would think of, ways that he would act — anything's possible for me. It's very freeing." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

NBC wants to reward its most loyal fans

Fans who share their passion for NBC shows online could earn the network's appreciation — and prizes — in return.

"Fan It," an initiative aimed at turning social-media users into an ad hoc promotional team for the network, will launch Monday, NBC said Thursday.

"A recommendation from a friend is infinitely more powerful than any message we can put out through conventional marketing channels," said Adam Stot-sky, president of NBC Entertainment Marketing.



If you sign up for NBC's new initiative "Fan It" you might win a prop from the desk of Michael Scott from The Office.

After signing up on NBC's website and logging in to their Facebook, Twitter, MySpace or MyNBC accounts, participants earn points through activities such as chatting about series and

steering friends to NBC-related links.

The points can be redeemed for rewards including sneak previews of shows, NBC merchandise and entry into a sweep-

stakes to win big-ticket items such as attendance at the finale of The Biggest Loser or a prop from The Office, the network said.

A social-media promotion this season for Chuck gave a fan, David Paul of Turlock, Calif., the chance to have his photo included in one of the title character's flash-of-brilliance sequences in the May 25 finale.

The "Fan It" initiative extends through the 2010-11 season and will involve new and returning shows.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Television



JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES

Australian actor Simon Baker, star of *The Mentalist*, says he misses the beaches from back home.

Baker shows off his charm

NED EHRLER
Metro World News

Simon Baker has been enjoying incredible success with *The Mentalist*, now wrapping up its second

season. As bogus psychic Patrick Jane, Baker has won Emmy, Golden Globe and SAG Award nominations, and the series has enjoyed stellar ratings since its premiere.

The Australian actor sat

down with Metro to talk about the series, improvisation and what's wrong with California beaches.

Q How often do people ask you to read their mind?

A You know, not as much as you would think. They normally just ask for photos or an autograph.

Q Did you think the series would be so successful right out of the gate?

No, I didn't think it would be. There's not that many shows that have this sort of success. You never really know. It's a funny balance. Success and good don't necessarily always mean the same thing. When I first saw the pilot, I liked the show, and I thought it was good. When you make a pilot, if you don't like it, you hope it doesn't go to series. If you do like it, you hope it does go to series. There are jobs that you go, "God, I hope this doesn't go to series."

Q Could you name one?

A Nothing I've done. (laughs)

Q Your character uses his charm to get what he wants. Have you ever resorted to something like that?

A Never. I don't rely on those cheap tricks. [laughs] Of course I do. You use whatever you can use, right? We're all sort of trying to make ends meet. This is the biggest character I've ever played, which was at first a little bit frightening for me. I've always played more understated characters, and this guy is so overt. He's just larger than life. It can be a bit scary.

Q How is your working relationship with series creator Bruno Heller?

A Bruno and I have a very good collaboration. Sometimes I go, "I don't know if I can pull that one off, but I'll play around with it." I won't necessarily rewrite it. We'll sit down and have a little fiddle with it with a pen and paper, he and I. And I push the writers pretty hard on the show with my stuff when they're on the set. I'm constantly talking to them, saying, "I'm going to try this." I will often change things. I won't always do the same thing twice. I won't repeat things. And I don't necessarily tell the other actors, which drives them nuts. I want to see a real reaction. I want to create.

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Murphy boycotts Newsweek

Glee creator Ryan Murphy has issued an open letter, urging people to boycott Newsweek until it apologizes for a now-notorious article about gay actors playing straight roles. **EW.COM**

movies&entertainment **33****Going Out****Mix of Six****WWE presents Smackdown**

When: Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Halifax Metro Centre

The stars of World Wrestling Entertainment are returning to town for a performance featuring the likes of World Heavyweight Champion Jack Swagger, The Big Show, Rey Mysterio, Christian, MVP and Matt Hardy. Tix: \$34.25 to \$74.

Peter Pan

When: Through May 30
Where: Neptune Theatre's Fountain Hall

This musical fairy tale is set to come to life in what is sure to be a hit with audiences. The play stars Stephen Roberts in the role of Peter Pan, and will see the Ontario-born actor doing many acrobatic moves on stage.

Wines of the World

When: Friday, 7 p.m.
Where: Halifax Club

Under the theme Spring-time in Italy, world-class Italian wines will be featured along with food and entertainment. Local wine

experts and makers will also be on hand. Tix: \$85.

Halifax Dance

When: Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 2 and 8 p.m.
Where: Sir James Dunn Theatre

This local premiere pre-professional youth contemporary dance company is taking to the stage for three shows titled Spring Performance.

Man In Black Show

When: Sunday, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Rebecca Cohn Auditorium

This tribute show to musical great Johnny Cash stars Shawn Barker, as performs all the hits from the late Grammy Award winning singer. Tix: \$34 to \$39.

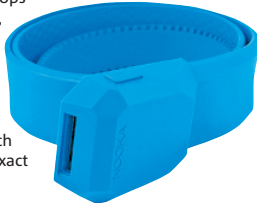
Katimavik Rocks!

When: Saturday, 8 p.m.
Where: Rebecca Cohn Auditorium

This fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer Society features performances from the likes of Jenn Grant, Share and Kim Wempe. Tix: \$20-\$25.

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now**1 Nooka belts**

STYLE The company may be well known for its vinyl skins for laptops and music players, but Nooka has come up with a line of strip belts. These colourful creations feature an innovative snap and release closure system, allowing each wearer to adjust it to their exact waist size. **nooka.com**.

**2 Going Gaga**

INTERNET It seems Lady Gaga's music is good for any occasion — just take a look at YouTube. Among the best are a sixth grader singing Paparazzi to a gaggle of girls at a school concert, and a flash mob in San Francisco that re-interpreted Bad Romance to urge people to boycott hotels where workers are fighting to win a new contract and health care.

3 Finger in the Nose

FASHION Just because your kid is tot-sized doesn't mean he or she isn't a fashionista at heart. This French clothing line will give any kid attitude with clothes mom or dad would want to borrow. The company's e-store is still under construction, but does provide information on how to purchase its rock 'n' roll-inspired items. **fingerinthenose.com**

**4 True Blood Bling**

ACCESSORIES The Simmons Jewelry Co. is celebrating the return of vampire-based romance and intrigue with a collection of silver trinkets inspired by True Blood. The collection includes the obligatory crosses, but also star- and skull-shaped charms, bracelets and rings. True Blood season three returns June 13. **kay.com**

5 Star Wars Tom Tom

GADGETS Next time you are lost in traffic, or just trying to find your way to the nearest comic book store, your guide could be Darth Vader. The Star Wars character's voice is now being used by Tom Tom in its navigation system. Not sure about turning to the Dark Side? The company plans to introduce a Yoda voice in July, Han Solo in August, and C-3PO later on. **starwars.tomtom.com**

6 Invictus

DVD One team, one country, and now on DVD. Clint Eastwood's latest film chronicles the true story of how Nelson Mandela joined forces with the captain of South Africa's rugby team to help unite the country. **Invictus** hits stores on Tuesday.

**7 Come Dine With Me**

TV The hit British TV show — which airs on W Network — is getting the Canuck treatment. It was announced this week that a Canadian version of the show, which searches for the best dinner host by having five people take turns creating three course meals, will begin shooting in Toronto later this year.

Singer Bieber new to Hello list

Teen idol Justin Bieber and Glee star Cory Monteith are among the fresh faces on Hello Canada's most beautiful Canadians list.

The mop-topped Stratford, Ont., singer appears on the magazine's cover several weeks after making People magazine's coveted list of most beautiful celebs.

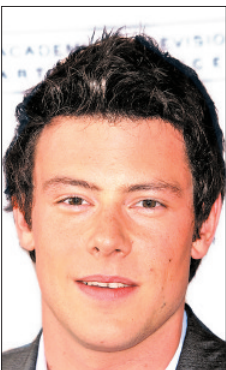
Glee actress Jessalyn Gilsig, Lost star Evangeline Lilly, and movie stars Rachel McAdams and Ryan Reynolds also made the Canadian Top 50 list.

Other stars in the special issue include music veterans Celine Dion, Michael Buble, Avril Lavigne and Bryan Adams.

Mixed in with the celebs are Olympic heroes including curling skip Cheryl Bernard and speed skating lovebirds Charles Hamelin and Marianne St. Gelais.

The issue hit newsstands this week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



This year's Hello magazine most beautiful celebs list includes actress Rachel McAdams and newcomer Cory Monteith of Glee fame (middle) and teen singer Justin Bieber.

Entertainment in brief

AWARDS Between them, Oprah Winfrey and Ellen DeGeneres have won 11 Day-time Emmy awards as best talk show host. They won't add to that total this year, by their own choice. DeGeneres took

herself out of consideration for the award for the first time since starting her show. Winfrey hasn't submitted her work since winning her seventh Emmy in 1999.

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34 movies&entertainment

Entertainment

A summer of 3-D films

DOROTHY ROBINSON
Metro World News

Thanks to a little movie called Avatar, this

year will see 19 films being released in 3-D in the U.S. By comparison, in 2008, there was only five. A large number of these 3-D films will be released for the entertainment hungry hoards of the summer.

But after Avatar, How to Train Your Dragon, and Alice in Wonderland — which, judging by their ticket sales (well over 2.5 billion combined), every-

one saw — are we reaching 3-D fatigue?

Simply put by Harry Medved, of New York movie chain Fandango: No way.

“3-D shows something you haven’t seen before. Moviegoers think, ‘I’ve got my \$10 bucks. Do I really want to pay for a movie that I can see at home? Or do I want to see something that will give me a more unique experience?’ It’s changing the game.”

The popularity of the new crop of 3-D films is due to the fact that they actually deliver the goods, unlike their cheesy counterparts of the 50s.

“3-D was never done well until Avatar, he says. “And frankly, directors never saw the potential of 3-D until that film.”

A summer of 3-D flicks

What you’ll be seeing in more dimensions that two this summer:



- May 21: Shrek Forever After
- June 18: Toy Story 3
- July 9: Despicable Me
- July 30: Cats & Dogs 3: The Revenge of Kitty Galore
- Aug. 6: Step-Up 3-D

It’s the CGI technology that is making these films become the immersive and interactive experiences they now are. “Basi-

cally, special effects technology has finally caught up with the imagination of Hollywood’s best story tellers.”

Movie audiences becoming pickier

SHORTCOMINGS With Avatar now out of most theatres, the industrywide 3-D juggernaut is itself entering another dimension.

The immense box-office success of James Cameron’s sci-fi epic proved the considerable draw of 3-D, and subsequent 3-D releases benefited from the buzz.

But the next wave of 3-D films — though still good bets for continued fortune — may not have it so easy.

Moviegoers, warming to technical terms like “convergence” and “stereospace,” have become more cognizant of the difference between good and bad 3-D. Critics have weighed in on its shortcomings. And the general aura of nov-

elty was never going to last forever.

“People are definitely starting to see the difference,” said Jon Chu, director of Step Up 3-D. “All these people putting Hollywood in check on why we’re doing 3-D, why we’re raising prices, I think it’s a good thing for the art because it makes sure everyone is using 3-D for the right reasons.”

Two of the top three post-Avatar 3-D releases — Alice in Wonderland and, especially, Clash of the Titans — were disparaged for their poor 3D. Each was originally shot in 2-D and converted to 3-D in post-production.

And the most influential film critic in the land, Roger Ebert, made his strongest denunciation yet of 3-D. In a recent Newsweek article, “Why I Hate 3-D (And You Should Too),” Ebert wrote: “Our



How latest Shrek movie, which will be in 3-D, is received by audiences could help determine if the huge wave of 3-D movies will have staying power or is just a fad.

minds use the principle of perspective to provide the third dimension. Adding one artificially can make the illusion less convincing.”

Taken together, these events don’t constitute a backlash, only the hints of one. After all, Alice earned \$879 million worldwide at

the box office and Clash took in \$427 million.

Whether the next crop of 3-D movies — from Shrek to Tron Legacy — will continue to wow audiences will go a long way to determining if the new 3-D is here to stay, or yet another three-dimensional fad.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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OLD NAVY

Hudson is new Almay face

Kate Hudson has reached ultimate Hollywood Golden Girl status. Revlon Inc. named the fun-loving actress Almay's new Global Brand Ambassador. She will appear in television, print and internet ads later this year. PEOPLE.COM

The girls are baaaaaack!

SATC 2 is bringing over-the-top glamour into the spotlight. Here's how to get in the spirit.

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News

Sure, you may have replaced your Manolos with a pair of studded brogues.

And yes, you might be wearing more beige than

red. Never mind that fashion is moving steadfastly towards a place of minimalism and restraint. Sex and the City 2 is about to squash all of those gushing fashion blog posts you've read about streamlined, tailored camel coats. Carrie, Samantha, Char-

lotte and Miranda are back in all of their shiny, jewel-toned, turban-wearing glory.

So before the sequel to every city girl's favorite movie hits theatres, follow these steps to get yourself back into SATC mode.



The Sex and the City 2 movie hits theatres May 27. Gear up for the fashion-forward film by indulging in the purchase of some key glamour pieces.

1**PILE ON THE ETHNIC JEWELRY**

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**2****LOAD UP ON HALSTON**

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**3****4****LOVE THE STATEMENT SHOE**

Shove the flats to the back of your closet. And get your feet used to wearing tall heels again. Ignore the pain. If Charlotte can walk through the hot desert sands in stilettos, surely you can make it down the pavement. ASOS platform sandals, \$135, asos.com.

**COVER YOURSELF IN SEQUINS**

Carrie and gang are perennial good time girls. And what is a good time without sequins? The shinier the better. H&M Fashion Against AIDS jacket, \$50, hm.com

5**RE-EMBRACE THE HAREM PANT**

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The boy band effect

RICHARD WOODBURY
for Metro Canada

Justin Bieber and Zac Efron may owe more than they realize to the likes of the Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync for the mind-boggling popularity of their current song-and-dance routines.

The boy bands that dominated the airwaves a decade ago have changed society's tune on what's considered masculine for today's pop phenoms and musical theatre heartthrobs, says Craig Jennex, a gender studies and musicology student at Dalhousie University.

And Jennex, 23, knows a lot about boy bands — not as a fan, but as a researcher. The soon to be Dalhousie University graduate's undergraduate thesis was about understanding the social significance of these groups.

"I think pop music is an integral part of how young people learn about gender and sexuality and race," he said. "I wanted to look at that and better understand my generation because we were the ones who grew up with the boy bands and with the teen pop of the 1990s."

As quickly as they appeared and dominated the charts, the boy bands disappeared. But Jennex argues their lasting legacy may not be record sales, but the influence they had on relaxing what elements made up society's definition of male masculinity.

"They really made our concepts of adolescent masculinity a lot less rigid, which I think is a good thing. I think there's a lot of young people out there who certainly don't fit into our ideals for young male masculinity in terms of gender performance and sexuality."

In his thesis, Jennex links the performance technique of late '90s boy bands — they sing, they dance but they don't play instruments — to the musical style typically associated with black male R&B groups. He points to Boyz II Men, whose soulful harmonies attracted legions of female fans in the '90s. Jennex also points to their old-school predeces-

sors such as the Four Tops and the Temptations.

The only other genre that features a group of men singing and dancing without playing an instrument, he says, is barbershop, which is rooted in black culture.

"The boy bands came along, and danced just as much as they sang," he says. "It's now an acceptable way

"They really made our concepts of adolescent masculinity a lot less rigid, which I think is a good thing."

Craig Jennex

for young people to display their masculinity.

"Now we have things like Justin Bieber, who has dance as part of his persona. We have Zac Efron and

High School Musical and all these dancing shows, like Dancing with the Stars, America's Best Dance Crew," says Jennex. "Dancing has become OK in terms of hegemonic masculinity, like it's an OK way to now show your masculine capacity as a young man. I think that was completely through mediation of the boy bands of the late 1990s." Another signature of the



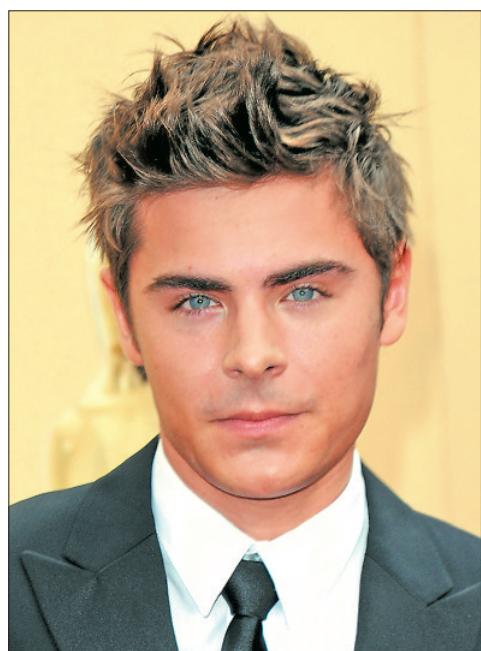
JIM COFFEE/RETNA ASSOCIATED PRESS

boy bands was their use of call and response vocals. These vocals conveyed ideas of fraternity and brotherhood, but also some sex attraction, says Jennex.

"When they do the call and response, they sing a lot about love and sex, a lot about intimacy," he says. "But since it's just male voices, it adds this homoerotic element to the music."

Prof. Jacqueline Warwick, who supervised Jennex's thesis, says while boy bands are often dismissed as "fluffy and insignificant," they've helped open the door for today's singing and dancing superstars.

WITH FILES FROM
THE CANADIAN PRESS



JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES

Top: The Backstreet Boys from left, Howie Dorough, rear, Nick Carter, front left, AJ McLean, Brian Littrell and Kevin Richardson in New York in this 2005 file photo. Right: Zac Efron arrives at the 82nd Annual Academy Awards in this March 2010 file photo.

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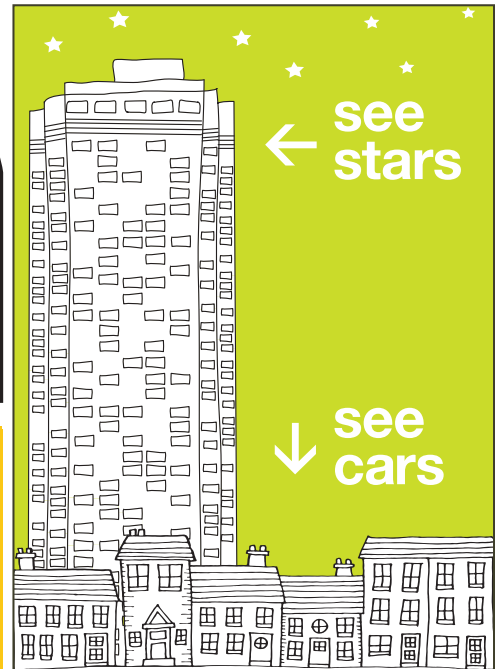
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Redmond O'Neal has been released from rehab. The 25-year-old son of Ryan O'Neal and late actress Farrah Fawcett has left the Impact Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center in Pasadena, CA., and has now been moved to a sober living environment, femalefirst.co.uk reports. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Redmond releases

Celebrity Buzz

Tempers flare in Twilight land

WEIRD BECAUSE SHE SEEMS LIKE SUCH A PLEASANT PERSON TO BE AROUND Looks like there may be trouble in paradise between Twilight co-stars Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart, who reportedly got in a fight during reshoots for the next chapter of the successful franchise.

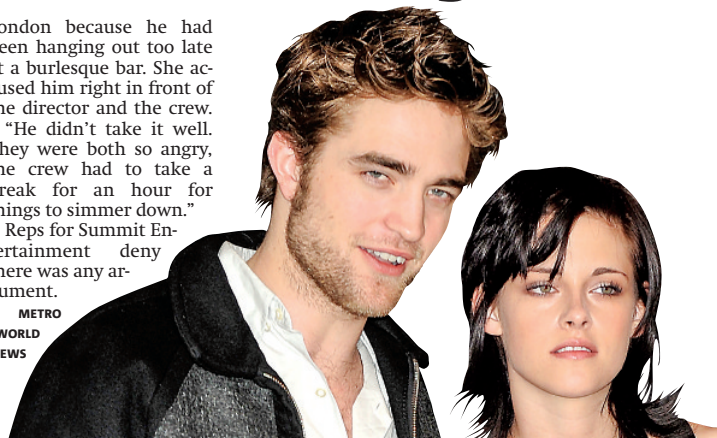
"Kristen asked for a reshoot because she didn't like her wig in the scene. Robert turned up later on the set," a source says. "When Robert arrived, he and Kristen started fighting. She accused him of taking a later flight from

London because he had been hanging out too late at a burlesque bar. She accused him right in front of the director and the crew.

"He didn't take it well. They were both so angry, the crew had to take a break for an hour for things to simmer down."

Reps for Summit Entertainment deny there was any argument.

**METRO
WORLD
NEWS**



Looking for a free ride

SHE SHOULD TRY USING HER THUMB Lindsay Lohan has reportedly been trying to score a trip to France to drum up investors for her new Linda Lovelace biopic, *Inferno*, at the Cannes Film Festival. The only problem is no one's willing to foot the bill, according to Page Six. "She's been asking around, but hasn't had any takers," a source says.

**METRO
WORLD
NEWS**



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CelebTweets

ASHTON KUTCHER is worried about the planet, **SARAH BROWN** wants you to know her husband isn't completely out of a job, **LILY ALLEN** needs restaurant recommendations, and **NEIL PATRICK HARRIS** is looking for a new job.

@aplusk what is going on with all the natural disasters?

@SarahBrownUK Gordon is still happily the MP for Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath (he resigned as party leader not as member of parliament)

@lilyroseallen Where's good to eat on the west side of hampburg?

@ActuallyNPH I love that NPH.com is the Nazarene Publishing House. I wonder if they'd let me hock merchandise.

**METRO NEWS
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Creating their own boy band?

KINGSTON'S THE GUITARIST, ZUMA'S ON DRUMS, NOW THEY JUST NEED A VOCALIST Gwen Stefani and Gavin Rossdale are reportedly getting ready to welcome baby No. 3 into their home, sources tell Star magazine.

One source spotted Stefani acting odd recently.

"She was pulling at her shirt to keep it away from her body. It seemed really strange," the source says. "But then, when she turned to the side, I could see why. She definitely had a baby bump."

Another source insists to the magazine that the singer is pregnant

"Gwen is having a really rough time this pregnancy," the source says. "She had all-day morning sickness for a while with Zuma, but she's sicker this go round and has been feeling exhausted and dizzy."

**METRO
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Sean Penn to pay his penance

FOR PUSHING OVER A PAPA-RAZZO Sean Penn has been ordered to undertake anger management counseling, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 49-year-old actor was not in court Wednesday to hear a judge rule he must undergo 36 hours of therapy, perform 300 hours of community service and be placed on probation for three years after he pleaded no contest to vandalism following a spat with a photographer last year. The actor has been permitted to complete his community service working for his Haiti charity.

His lawyer, Richard Hirsch, said: "Prolonging this matter in the court system would not have been in Mr Penn's best interests and would have distracted from his charitable commitments, specifically his work in Haiti. Accordingly he has decided to accept the terms and move on."

The actor had originally been charged with misdemeanor battery and vandalism, which could have led to an 18-month jail term, but agreed a plea bargain, which saw the charges dropped to misdemeanor vandalism.

**METRO
WORLD
NEWS**



Miley shakes her shanks with Shankman

UM, HE'S GAY. AND WHAT WERE KIDS DOING AT A WRAP PARTY ANYWAY? Miley Cyrus is causing an uproar with a leaked video of her giving a provocative lap dance to 45-

year-old producer Adam Shankman at the wrap party for *The Last Song* seven months ago, according to Radar Online. The video shows Cyrus grinding up against the openly gay

Shankman.

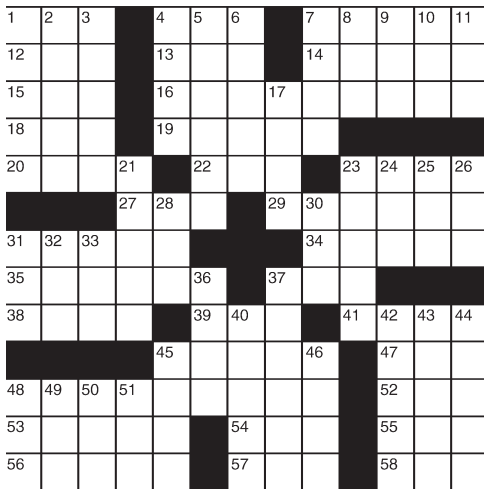
"The worst part is that there were little kids at the party and the dancing between Miley and Adam was so dirty that some of the parents actually left the party and took their kids home," a source says.

METRO WORLD NEWS



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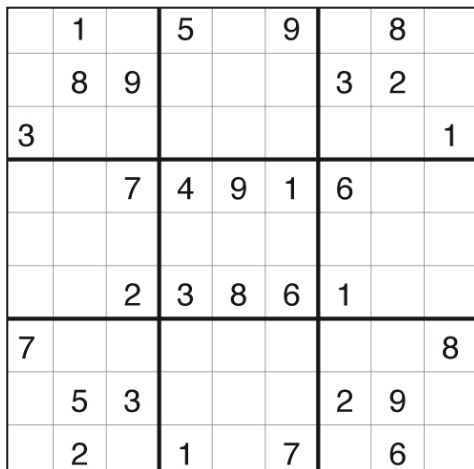
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7 Aware of
8 — de plume
9 "Criminal Minds" org.
10 Shade source
11 Deli bread
17 Mummy's locale
21 Streamlined

23 Abacus parts
24 Rowing need
25 Performance
26 "Quiet!"
28 Foolish sort
30 Blazed a trail
31 Check-casher's two, perhaps
32 Compete
33 "— got it!"
36 Asian cuisine
37 Reach
40 Extreme
42 Dish
43 Staffers
44 Alter the chart
45 Christmastime
46 Host
48 Honest politician?
49 Actor McShane
50 Genetic stuff
51 "Roscoe"

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



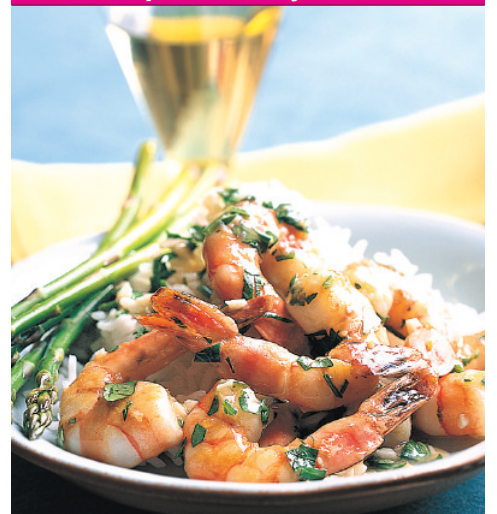
PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day



Shrimp Scampi

INGREDIENTS:

1 1/2 lbs large shrimp
2 tsp olive oil
3 cloves garlic, minced
2/3 cup bottled clam juice or reduced-sodium, low-fat chicken broth
3 tbsp fresh lemon juice
Salt to taste
1/8 tsp crushed red pepper flakes
1 tsp cornstarch blended with 1 tbsp water
1/4 cup chopped parsley

METHOD:

1. Shell and devein shrimp.

2. Spray large nonstick skillet with nonstick cooking spray. Add oil and heat over medium heat. Add garlic and cook until tender, 2 minutes.

3. Add shrimp and cook,

stirring, until almost cooked through, 3 minutes. Add clam juice, lemon juice, salt and red pepper flakes and bring to boil. Cook until shrimp are opaque throughout, about 1 minute.

4. With slotted spoon, transfer shrimp to serving plates. Bring liquid in skillet to boil, stir in cornstarch mixture; cook, stirring, until sauce is lightly thickened, about 1 minute. Stir in parsley and spoon sauce over shrimp.

SERVES 6

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20



Good news is coming your way and it will affect you where you need it most — in your pocket. Be careful though that you don't spend all your money

LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23



However friendly you may be with a certain individual, if they are taking up too much of your time and energy you must cut them adrift.

TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21



Any day can be a new beginning but with a new moon in your sign this is the best day of all to change your life for the better.

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22



It may seem as if you are dancing to someone else's tune but you are not as helpless as you think you are.

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21



Why are you hiding away where no one can find you? Maybe it's because you are going through one of your occasional bouts of soul searching.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21



If you are called upon to make a quick decision then make it and don't look back. It may not be the best decision but if you stand still you'll miss out.

CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22



If you talk to someone whose ideas you tend not to agree with today you may be surprised to learn that you are not so far apart in your views after all.

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20



Because today's new moon falls in one of the most dynamic areas of your chart you cannot be forced into doing anything against your will.

LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23



You must not give in to pressure today. If you show the slightest hint of weakness you will put yourself at a disadvantage, especially on the work front.

AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18



Be ready to put other people's needs ahead of your own today, even if it means you run the risk of missing out on something you were looking forward to.

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22



You are thinking of moving on or doing something different with your life. That's great, but have you talked it over with your loved ones? You should.

PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20



Let friends and relatives know what it is you require of them and they will go out of their way to meet your expectations. That makes a change!

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This day in history

1796: Edward Jenner administers the first smallpox vaccination.
1804: The Lewis and Clark Expedition departs from Camp Dubois and begins its historic journey by traveling up the Missouri River.
1948: Israel is declared to be an independent state. Immediately after the declaration, Israel is attacked by the neighboring Arab states, triggering the 1948 Arab-Israeli War.
1955: Cold War: Eight communist bloc countries, including the Soviet Union, sign a mutual defense treaty called the Warsaw Pact.

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